Perez sees revival of Kuratong 'rubout' case

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2001 ★★ 90 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 112 ₱15

Palace seeks ouster of Erap kin in SMC

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

BECAUSE they have refused to resign their plum posts on the board of San Miguel Corp., Malacañang is seeking a court order to oust deposed President Estrada's brother-in-law Raul de Guzman and four others, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

PALACE/ A18

WHAT'S INSIDE
- **McVeigh admits Oklahoma blast** WORLD / A11
- **Measles kills 6 in 2 provinces** ACROSS / A14
- **RP seen as haven for tax evaders** BUSINESS / B1
- **Sugar shortage prompts importation** NEWS / A7

2 farmers say Dacer was strangled, burned

Lacson claims witnesses tortured into implicating PAOCTF agents

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

A ONCE white pair of Lumberjack leather topsiders, dyed brown, robbed from a dead man—the late publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

The shoes were on the feet of one of two arrested farmers who yesterday told the story of a grisly crime, claiming that members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force strangled Dacer, 63, and his driver, Manuel Corbito, with electric cords before setting fire to the corpses.

"They did not kill the two right away. First, they asked that we gather wood and some old rubber tires" for burning the bodies, farmer Alex Diloy told reporters in Filipino, recounting the alleged murders.

Diloy and Jimmy Lopez, both of Indang, Cavite, told a news conference that the policemen strangled the victims on the night of Nov. 24, the same day they were abducted in Manila.

The National Bureau of Investigation is now preparing to indict a former aide of Panfilo Lacson, Police Supt. Teofilo Viña of the PAOCTF-Visayas, as a mastermind in the alleged double murder and kidnapping case.

But Lacson said that "since Day 1, the NBI has been bent on pinning PAOCTF members, particularly me." He appealed to the NBI not to be biased in their investigation.

NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco said the bureau had recovered "bones and teeth" near a creek in Cavite where the bodies were said to have been burned.

"We're still going to examine whether they really belong to Dacer and Corbito," he said in Taglish.

Lopez, a civilian agent of the PAOCTF, and Diloy were arrested in a dawn raid by NBI agents in Barangay Buen Alejos in Indang on March 28.

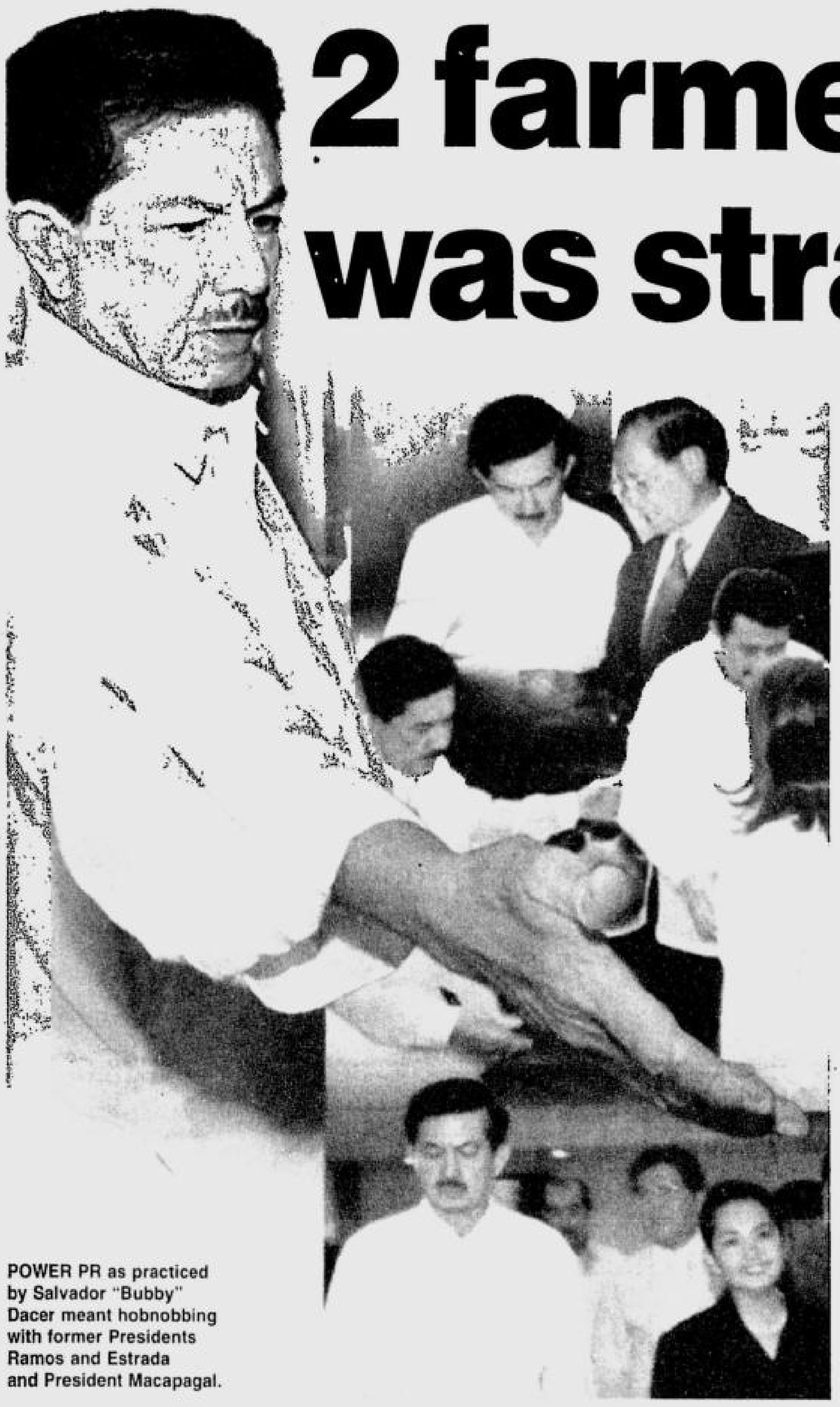
When presented to reporters by the NBI, Diloy was wearing what he claimed were Dacer's shoes, as a souvenir of the brutal crime. White was the PR man's favorite color.

Diloy admitted to having taken part in the disposal of the corpses. He said he helped build a pyre of wood and old tires to dispose of the remains of the victims, who they said were set on fire after being doused with gasoline.

Lopez, a 41-year-old former barangay captain, and Diloy, 37, identified four members of the PAOCTF as being among more than 10 people who had taken part in the killing.

The NBI earlier asked state prosecutors to

2 FARMERS/ A20



POWER PR as practiced by Salvador "Bubby" Dacer meant hobnobbing with former Presidents Ramos and Estrada and President Macapagal.

BREAKTHROUGH: Alex Diloy and Jimmy Lopez, claim to be eyewitnesses to the murders of Dacer and his driver. The .45 cal. pistol was seized from Lopez who had a permit signed by Supt. Teofilo Viña.

ERIK ARAZAS

Dacer family hopes 'this is not yet it'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

EVEN with their darkest fears seemingly realized, the family of PR man Bubby Dacer still clung yesterday to the frailest shed of hope that he might still be alive.

"You know, at the back of our mind there is still a tinge of hope that this is not yet it," said Chelen Reyes, one of Dacer's sons-in-law, who spoke on behalf of other family members who declined to talk to the press.

Reyes said his wife, Sabina Dacer, and her sister, Karina, who is in the United States, fell ill upon hearing that two arrested farmers had allegedly witnessed the murders of Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito. *(Story on Page A1.)*

The two other Dacer sisters, Ampy and Emily,

DACER/ A19

Rights body doubts NPA victims can get justice

BY FROILAN GALLARDO
AND JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Commission on Human Rights yesterday voiced doubts it would be able to give justice to 75 victims of a bloody communist purge in 1984-86.

The statement came two days after soldiers dug up the skeletal remains of the victims, including a child, at an abandoned quarry in Opol, Misamis Oriental.

"Time is on their (killers') side. But we doubt if any witness could still be found," said Victorio Alleria, chief of the CHR investigation unit in Northern Mindanao.

The mass killings were carried out by the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, as part of "Kampanyang Ahos," a campaign aimed at weeding out suspected government spies from the rebel ranks.

RIGHTS/ A18

Alvarez named DENR chief after getting support of NGOs

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday named Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez environment secretary after he got the endorsement of most pro-environment groups, which had earlier rejected him.

The President also said she would name her official spokesperson in three weeks although she admitted having asked INQUIRER columnist Rigoberto D. Tiglao to assume the position.

The President said the lack of consensus among non-government organizations whom to support for the top post at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had stalled the appointment of Alvarez for months.

She said many of these groups were in fact against Alvarez.

"I told the NGOs that I would probably keep this position vacant for a very long time. In fact I foresaw keeping it vacant until June" when a "near consensus" shall have been reached on a common candidate, she said in a press briefing.

But of late, she said Alvarez, "who has so many dreams about what to do in the environment area, really worked hard to get the approval and acceptance of the NGOs."

"Finally, when I was doing my usual consultations, which I always do, I find that the resistance was getting less and less and there were a number of them who were in fact endorsing him," Ms Macapagal said.

Last month, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. objected to the possible appointment of Alvarez as environment secretary.

Pimentel said Alvarez had opposed a bill calling for a total log ban in the country.

Alvarez had earlier eyed the 13-member senatorial slate of the administration's People Power Coalition. He asked that he not be named to the slate on the condition that he be given the top DENR post.

ALVAREZ/ A19

Macapagal popularity rating jumps to +24% from –4%

BY STELLA O. GONZALES

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's popularity has soared by 28 percentage points compared to her rating last December when she was still vice president.

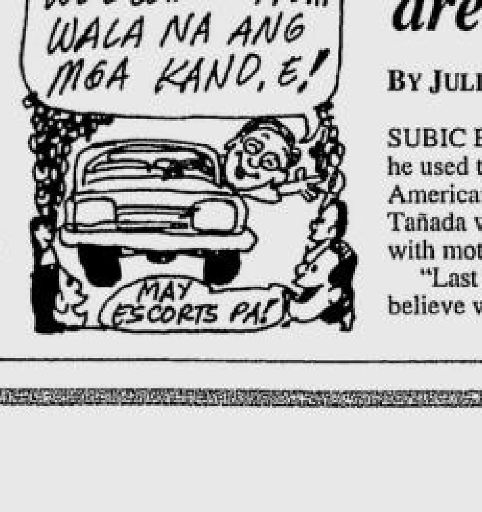
A nationwide survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations from March 5 to 18 showed that 42 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the President's performance while 18 percent were dissatisfied. This resulted in a net satisfaction rating of +24.

Net satisfaction is the percentage of those satisfied minus the percentage of those dissatisfied.

But compared with the performance of previous presidents during their first few months in office, Ms Macapagal obtained the lowest popularity rating.

In May 1986, then President Corazon Aquino

MACAPAGAL/ A20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Tañada sees dream come true

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Where he used to be *persona non grata* while the Americans were here, Rep. Wigberto Tañada was received like a VIP complete with motorcycle escorts.

"Last (Wednesday) night, I could not believe what happened to me. I thought I

TAÑADA/ A18

GMA to give Abubakar to Muslims

BY DONNA CUETO,
NASH B. MAULANA
PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday promised that her government would return Camp Abubakar, the former Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) headquarters, and two other camps to the Bangsa Moro, but as "Muslim communities" and not as rebel camps.

The President said she did not want this to be misconstrued as a move that "would enable the MILF to regain its camps," including Abubakar, Rajah Muda and Bushra.

"One issue being mistakenly raised is that the Kuala Lumpur accord would enable the MILF to regain its military camps," she said in a speech at the President's Night of the Manila Overseas Press Club

GMA/ A19

MUKHANG MABUBUHAY ANG KURATONG BALELENG !

Kuratong case revival seen

By Cathy Yamsuan
Juliet Javellana
and Martin Marfil

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday the appearance of new witnesses and the non-arraignment of the suspects could pave the way for a reopening of the controversial Kuratong Baleleng case.

"It is possible to reopen (the case) since the determining factor is whether the accused had been arraigned earlier," Perez told a news conference.

He said, "We have learned that an arraignment had not taken place. We are still studying this, along with (the possibility of conducting) another investigation, so the case is practically open," he said.

The Kuratong Baleleng case involved the killing allegedly in a shootout with police of 11 gang members in Quezon City in 1995.

Multiple murder charges were filed against former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson and 24 other officers after witnesses implicated them in the killing. The charges were dismissed by a QC court after the witnesses recanted their statements and left the country.

Wednesday, two members of police teams that had custody of the gang members surfaced and accused Lacson, who is running for senator in the May 14 elections, of giving the order to kill the suspects.

The new witnesses were Senior Insp. Abelardo Ramos, who said he was one of those given the order to execute the gang members, and former Insp. Ismael Yu, who led he assault team that arrested the gang at their Parañaque City hideout.

"That is an old story. It is nothing but a political act because what's bad for the opposition is good for the administration," said Lacson who is running under the opposition Puwersa ng Masa allied with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Lacson pointed out that one of the two new witnesses, Yu, was not really "new" since he had been presented before by former PNP chief Gen. Roberto Lastimoso.

Lacson said the other witness, Ramos, was not even on the list of 98 police officers who were charged in the case.

"I don't see any basis for reopening the case. It had been dismissed by the Regional Trial Court," Lacson said.

Lacson also appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to put a stop to the smear job against him and help transform the election campaign to a higher level.

"What I want to see is a competition of track records and agenda. I would also like to see a regime of civility and courtesy. One can go up without putting anyone down," Lacson said.

Lacson had earlier accused the administration's People Power Coalition of being behind a smear campaign against him dubbed "Oplan Lucky Nine."

Senatorial candidates of the PPC have supported the reopening of the case, saying it should be investigated thoroughly because the charges against Lacson "keep cropping up."

Speaking at a press conference at the Subic International Hotel where they were campaigning, the candidates said Lacson could not just dismiss the reopening of the case as a politically motivated move.

"Politics is not a defense. Let the truth come out and justice prevail. A retrial may be justified (by the new evidence)," Roberto Pagdanganan said.

Liwayway Vinzons-Chato noted the preponderance of cases against Lacson, suggesting, "Why don't we look at the accusations against him? Other candidates do not face these kinds of charges. Do we deserve government officials (who face) these accusations?" she asked.

Wigberto Tañada, a lawyer, said Lacson would likely oppose the reopening of the case on the ground of double jeopardy.

"He will certainly use that defense but if it is established that there is new evidence, there can be a retrial," Tañada said.

Francis Pangilinan, who was one of the lawyers of the four prosecution witnesses who testified against Lacson and the other accused in the original case, said, "It should be revived. It was not resolved by the court due to a technicality. The verdict in the case was highly questionable."

New anti-crime body formed

By A. N. Nocum

ITS acronym may be shorter but it's not any easier to pronounce.

Yesterday, Malacañang formed the Anti-Crime Task Force (ACTF) under the Armed Forces of the Philippines to fight major crimes, replacing the controversial Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force of the previous administration.

President Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the signing of the memorandum of agreement establishing the ACTF which will investigate "kidnapping, drug trafficking, hijacking, carnapping and other crimes" committed by organized crime groups.

The three-page memorandum noted how continuing incidents of serious crimes "may have created doubt about the ability of the government to maintain law and order."

Under the memorandum, the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation will retain their "primary roles" as lead agencies in anti-crime efforts.

For its part, the AFP's ACTF will play a "supporting" role to the PNP and the NBI on a need-to basis.

At a press briefing, President Macapagal made it clear the ACTF was not a "super body" but a coordinating body that would provide support to the police and the NBI.

"The PNP takes the lead. This is the task force within the AFP that will assist the PNP," the President said.

The memorandum ordered the AFP to constitute a highly trained and equipped unit.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the ACTF will be directly under Armed Forces Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva.

He said it would be composed of elements from the Special Forces, Scout Rangers, Philippine Air Force, the Philippine Navy and the Marines.

The PNP and the NBI will "investigate, document and prosecute" crime, but may call in the AFP anti-crime unit on "joint deployment" should the situation require a backup force.

Col. Mark Antonio Supnet, intelligence chief of the AFP Southern Command in Mindanao, has been tapped to head the ACTF. Supnet is also a lawyer.

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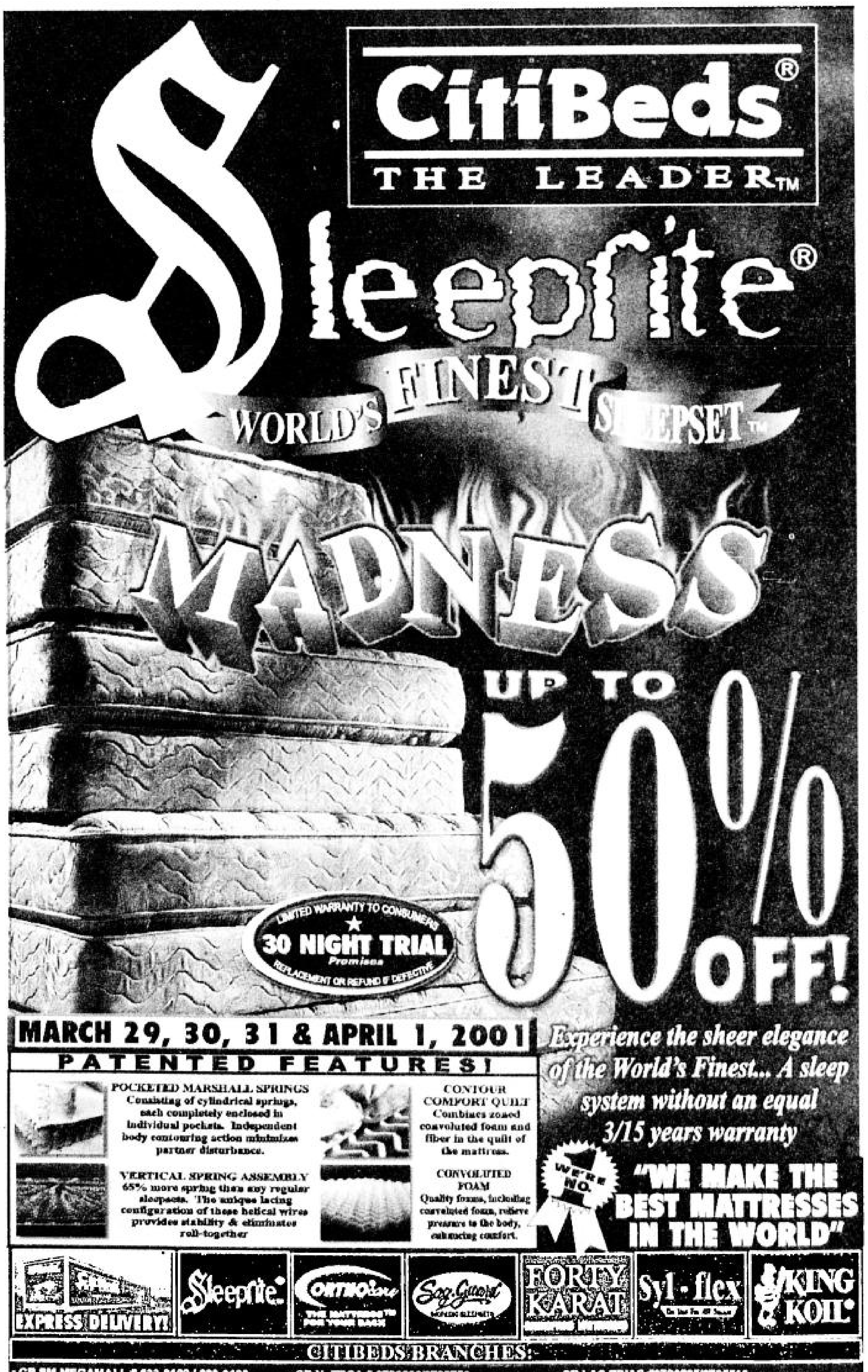

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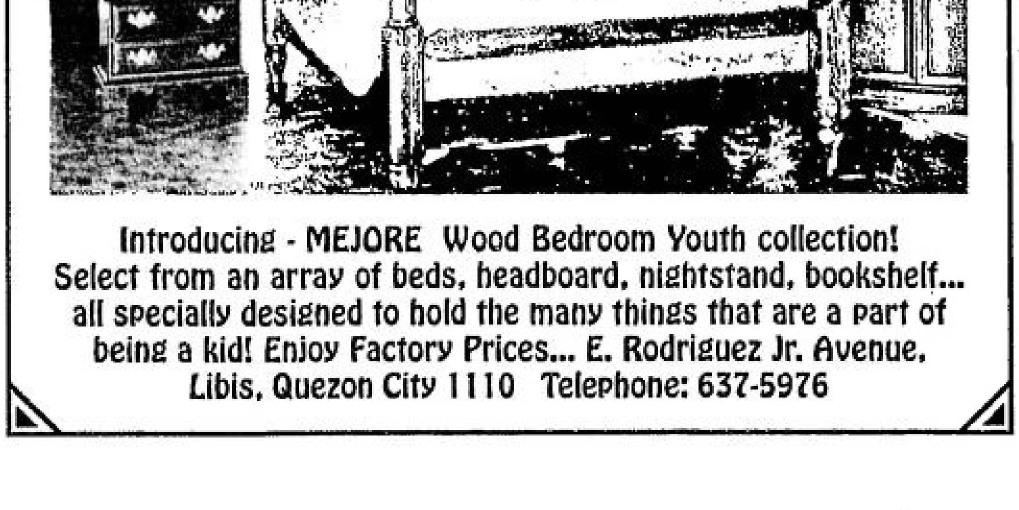

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SCARBOROUGH SHOAL

China to Guingona: You can't ban us in our seas

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

CHINA has reacted strongly to the suggestion of Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. that fishing be banned at the disputed Scarborough Shoal.

"Huangyan Island is an integral part of Chinese territory. (We) have noted the report (on Guingona) and express grave concern over it," the Chinese Embassy said in a statement.

The Chinese call Scarborough Shoal Huangyan Island. Located 180 nautical miles west of Zambales, it is being claimed by both the Philippines and China.

"Huangyan Island's waters have always been Chinese fishermen's traditional fishing grounds," the statement said, adding, "the Philippines has no sovereign right over the island and its waters."

The DFA had said it would take up the matter of a unilateral moratorium on fishing in the area with Cabinet Cluster E which tackles political and national issues.

In another development, Agence France Presse reported yesterday that Malaysia will object to the Philippines' intervention in its dispute with Indonesia over two islands which is being heard by the International Court of Justice.

"Malaysia will oppose the request," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said Tuesday Manila had "filed an application to intervene in the case concerning the dispute over the ownership of Sipadan and Ligitan islands between Malaysia and Indonesia."

The Philippines is interested in the case because "there is a possibility" any decision by the tribunal would impact on Manila's claim to the state of Sabah, Baja told reporters.

Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed to allow the International Court of Justice to decide who owns the Celebes Sea islands, Baja said.

Malaysia's foreign ministry said the case over Litigan and Sipadan is at an advanced stage before the court in The Hague, Netherlands.

The two islands lie off the coast of Sabah on Borneo Island across from the fishing village of Sempoma.

Sipadan gained recent worldwide notoriety as the resort island from which vacationing foreigners were abducted and rushed to Sulu in the Philippines where they were held by Moro separatist rebels for months.

Malaysia would make its representations to the court, the ministry said, adding the case did not concern the status of Sabah.

"The ICJ, in accordance with its own procedures and time table, will decide whether or not to allow the Philippines to intervene in this case," the statement said. *With a report from AFP*

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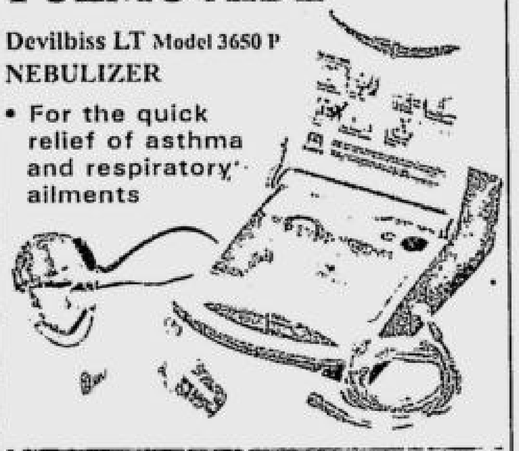

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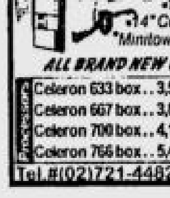

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Manero asks Gloria to restore pardon

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Escaped priest-killer Norberto Manero Jr. has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the revocation of his pardon and the nullification of the commutation of sentence granted to him by former President Fidel Ramos.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said last night Manero was ready to surrender without conditions.

She made the revelation at the Manila Overseas Press Club. She said the information was relayed to her by presidential adviser Jesus Dureza. She did not elaborate.

As this developed, Manero's lawyer, Thomas Falgui, announced he was resigning as legal counsel of the man who has struck renewed fear in the hearts of Mindanaoans.

Julie Yee, who said she was Manero's legal wife and who was suspected of aiding his escape, told the INQUIRER yesterday that Manero has written to Ms Macapagal "appealing to the President's sense of justice."

Yee said Manero had asked reporter Michael Fajatin of GMA 7 to deliver the letter dated March 24 to Malacañang.

Fajatin interviewed Manero at an undisclosed location in Bukidnon.

Yee said a copy of the letter was sent to Manero's lawyer but Falgui denied having received a copy.

Yee said the letter contained her husband's "pleadings" not demands.

Among the pleas, she said, were for:

- The lifting of the suspension of Sarangani provincial jail officials.
- A speedy trial for inmates with pending cases in Sarangani.
- The speedy resolution of his kidnapping with double murder case.
- The restoration of his conditional pardon.

"My future is in your hands Madame President," Julie quoted from Manero's letter.

Falgui, on the other hand, said he was quitting as Manero's lawyer effective yesterday.

He said he felt he was no longer effective as Manero's counsel. He did not elaborate.

In several media interviews, Falgui said he was not aware of Manero's plan to escape from prison.

He also said his advice was not sought before Manero announced his four demands to the government.

In a related development, Yee confirmed Manero has withdrawn his donation of a 12-hectare lot to the Probation and Parole Office in Kinilis, Polomolok, South Cotabato.

Manero had reportedly donated a portion of his property in Kinilis to be the site of the first-ever halfway house in Mindanao.

Yee said her husband sent a letter dated March 5 to the Regional Probation and Parole Office in Davao City taking back the donation.

"My husband withdrew the donation to end all intrigue and malicious interpretations regarding his real motive in donating the land," she said.

Sr. Supt. Alex Paul Monteagudo, North Cotabato police chief, said it was possible that Manero would try to slip into Tulunan town where most of his relatives live.

"We suspect he would go there but not very soon because he knows we are closely watching the place. Maybe in a week or two he will turn up," Monteagudo said.

It was in Tulunan that Manero, known as Kumander Bukay, was raised and where he established the base of a band of Ilaga warriors who fought Moro and communist rebels. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio with reports from Allan A. Nawal, Charlie C. Señase, Edwin O. Fernandez and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Perez to review Jacobi contract

BY DONNA S. CUETO

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday the government would review the 1988 contract between the Presidential Commission on Good Government and Australian private investigator Reiner Jacobi to see if it is still binding and workable.

Perez also said he found nothing wrong with rewarding Jacobi based on "actual collections," if the Marcos accounts he has uncovered are recovered by the government.

Perez said he saw nothing wrong with the government using the services of Jacobi.

"If the government will not have to spend anything, why not? We could give it a try," he said in a radio interview yesterday.

Jacobi had originally entered into a contingency fee agreement with the PCGG in December 1988 under then chair Mateo Caparas.

David Castro, then PCGG commissioner, said the government body decided to pay Jacobi "10 percent of any amount actually recovered and legally turned over to the Republic of the Philippines from the ill-gotten wealth of Ferdinand Marcos."

This would be for the "information and evidence" that Jacobi would give the PCGG, "which was not otherwise known to the commission from other sources."

David Chaikin, Jacobi's lawyer and an anti-money laundering expert, said his client's position has always been "that he would be paid after there is actual recovery by the Philippine government."

As this developed, the appointment of former solicitor general Francisco Chavez to the team tasked with investigating the alleged $13.2-billion account of Irene Marcos-Araneta in a Swiss bank has made Marcos loyalists "very happy."

"Finally, the man would be caught in his own web of lies for the government and the world to see," said Cherry Cobarrubias, president of the True Marcos Loyalists (for God and Country) Foundation of the Philippines.

"The PCGG has already said the account does not exist," Cobarrubias told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday. "Chavez keeps saying it does, but he has not proved it and it has been 15 years."

Earlier, the PCGG had said that Account No. 885931 in the Union Bank of Switzerland thought to contain the $13.2 billion did not exist.

The PCGG had based its findings on a Price Waterhouse Coopers report that said the account contained only 20 million francs and was closed in 1999. The report also said the account didn't belong to Araneta or any Marcos family member.

"We pity him. He's a lawyer. I hope someday he can reconcile the facts in his mind," said Cobarrubias, former spokesperson of former first lady Imelda Marcos.

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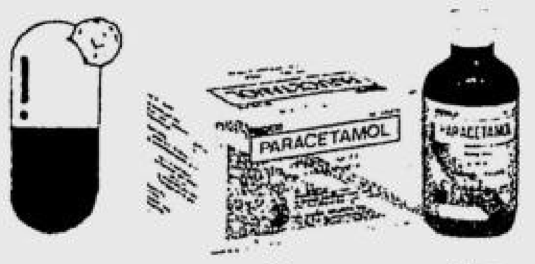

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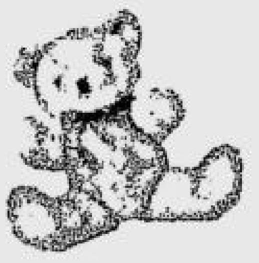

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Desierto says there's enough to try Estrada

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday said a panel of investigators have found prima facie evidence to warrant a formal investigation of the allegations of businessman Mark Jimenez that deposed President Estrada extorted P346 million from him from December 1998 to August 2000.

"I have already ordered a formal investigation of the plunder complaint after the panel found that Jimenez's statements have established sufficient basis to warrant the conduct of preliminary investigation in this case," Desierto said.

He told the INQUIRER that Jimenez's two supplemental affidavits—submitted on March 16 and 21, respectively—had corroborated his earlier statements that he issued a total of 10 checks, which were "personally hand-delivered" to Estrada.

Desierto said the additional pieces of evidence submitted by Jimenez were sufficient and could even be used to immediately initiate criminal proceedings against Estrada at the Sandiganbayan. However, Estrada is still entitled to rebut the charges by filing a counter-affidavit within 10 days.

In his two supplemental affidavits, Jimenez said Equitable PCI Bank check No. 0110-370237 worth P126 million was issued in May 1999 and delivered to Estrada.

The check was meant as advanced commissions from the sale of Belle Corp. shares.

Jimenez was referring to the Belle stocks purchased by the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System in 1999, allegedly upon Estrada's instructions.

Estrada got the commission for allegedly pressuring SSS President Carlos Arellano and GSIS President Federico Pascual into buying 447,650,000 Belle shares worth a total of P1.8 billion in 1999. Belle Corp. vice chair Willy Ocier said Estrada also received P189.7 million as commission on Nov. 3, 1999.

Ocier said he handed the P189.7-million check to businessman Jaime Dichaves who, in turn, delivered the check to Estrada.

In his original two affidavits, Jimenez said the amount was payable to him "once the 650 million shares were sold in the stock market as (Estrada) was sure to make money thereon." But he clarified in his supplemental pleadings that the amount was indeed a commission.

On the nine other checks delivered to Estrada, Jimenez said "(I) had no choice but to pay these amounts to him as he had made several threats to (me).

"As a businessman with many concerns and transactions, and being the subject of an extradition case, (I) was vulnerable to his pressures, especially through the Office of the President and the agencies of the Executive Department," Jimenez said.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio immediately recommended a preliminary investigation of the plunder case after Jimenez sufficiently determined what particular checks were issued as loans, commissions or outright extortion money to Estrada.

Jimenez's plunder case was the seventh of the nine plunder complaints filed with the Ombudsman since November last year.

It was filed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on March 2.

In the complaint, Jimenez, the former presidential adviser on Latin American affairs, claimed he issued 10 checks to Estrada worth a total of P346 million.

Desierto earlier said the P346 million allegedly extorted from Jimenez included the P10-million check, which was deposited into the controversial "Jose Velarde" account with the Equitable PCI Bank.

This bolstered the earlier finding of the Ombudsman that the ousted president owned the P3.2 million Velarde account.

Desierto said the Velarde bank accounts would be used as evidence in the charges of perjury to be filed against Estrada with the Sandiganbayan.

He said the Velarde account could also be used to bolster the forfeiture case against Estrada. His assets are estimated at P20 billion.

Priests in short supply

BY N. BORDADORA

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday sounded the alarm over a reported shortage of Filipino priests who would attend to the spiritual and pastoral needs of citizens in the only predominantly Catholic country in Asia.

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the CBCP, said that while seminaries and formation centers around the country have full enrollments, the Catholic Church continues to experience difficulties in meeting the needs of the Catholic flock because of a shortage in priests.

Coronel said that the ideal ratio between the number of priests and the people in a parish is one priest for every 5,000 parishioners. He said that at present, the national ratio between priests and parishioners is a staggering one priest for every 20000 parishioners.

"We need people who would administer the sacraments to the faithful," Coronel told reporters at the CBCP headquarters in Manila.

He, however, stressed that the Catholic Church would not be willing to sacrifice the quality of seminarians just so they could fill up the shortage.

The CBCP sounded the call for new priests one week after it joined Pope John Paul II in apologizing for the sexual crimes committed by priests against nuns and lay workers of the Church in 26 countries, including the Philippines.

The CBCP has called for stricter screening processes for those who want to enter the priesthood.

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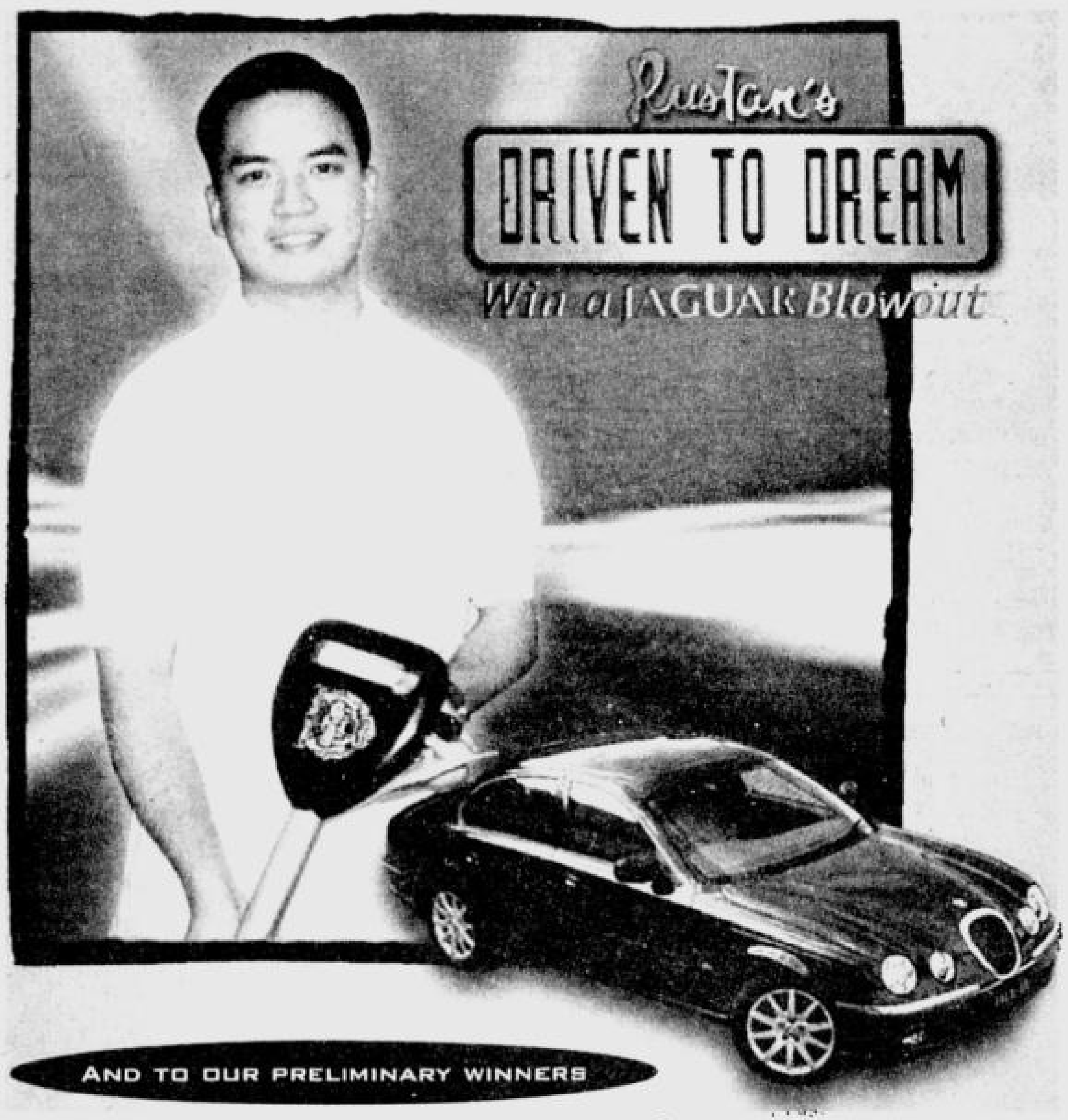

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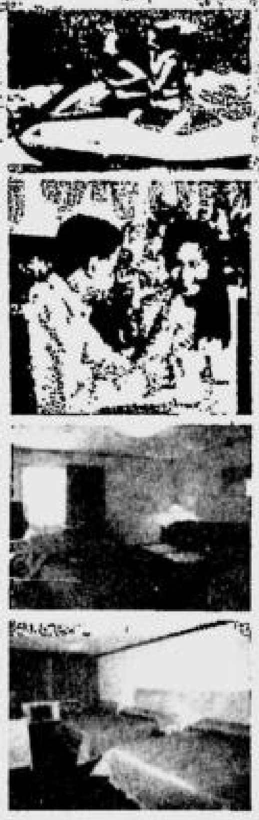

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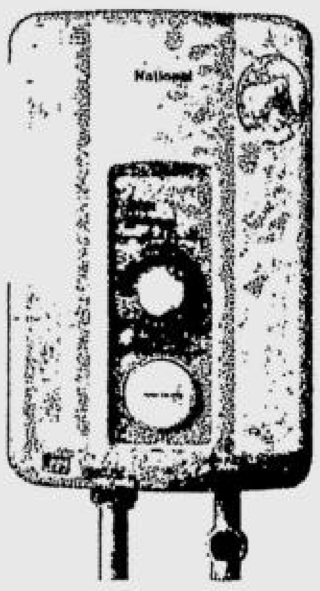

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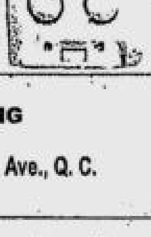

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Rice import commodity loan from US

THE RICE imports in Batangas warehouses were owned by the Philippine government and were not seized, contrary to reports, according to the firm which offloaded the shipment from the vessel that brought it in.

Bulk Handlers said that as a matter of fact, the shipment was a commodity loan granted by the US government under PL (Public Law) 480 to the Philippine government through the National Food Authority and the National Agricultural and Fishery Council.

Bulk Handlers said the rice shipment was supposed to be auctioned off today with most of the bidders coming from the Confederation of Grains Association, which was mentioned in the reports as the complainant.

It said it was only tasked to offload the rice from the vessel, put in on trucks and transport it to various warehouses before the bidding.

"The shipment was huge and NFA would have paid demurrage if we could not unload the rice immediately. But we did our job efficiently and as a result saved NFA a lot of money," the Bulk Handlers' statement said.

Bulk Handlers said rice importation is a controversial issue and it was just caught in the middle. Under PL 480, the US government offers agricultural products to various countries as a soft loan.

RP to import sugar due to shortage

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES is experiencing a shortage of 200,000 metric tons of sugar despite being one of the major sugar producers in the region.

This was revealed yesterday by James Ledesma, administrator of the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), who said that the sugar industry has only been producing 1.7 million metric tons of sugar annually.

The figure is 200,000 metric tons short of the annual quota for sugar production and consumption.

Ledesma said it would take time before the sugar industry can fully recover and produce enough sugar to meet the local demand, which is increasing by two percent each year.

"A lot if re-engineering has to be done on the part of the industry. It's a big challenge for the sugar industry to become self-sustaining," he added.

About 364,718 hectares of land in the country are planted with sugarcane. Despite this, Ledesma said that the sugarcane areas would have to be expanded for increased sugar productivity.

To meet the demand for this year, Ledesma said that the government and the private sector would have to export raw and refined sugar starting next month.

He said the first batch of imported raw sugar would arrive in the country in May while the refined sugar will start coming in from abroad in June or July.

"We will ensure that the imported sugar will not be sold at a very cheap price in the local market so as not to compete with the local products," he said.

Ledesma said that raw and refined sugar are usually sold at P21.69 and P26.10 pesos per kilo, respectively.

The country has already imported some 82,706.51 metric tons amounting to some $24,993,409 for 2000 to 2001.

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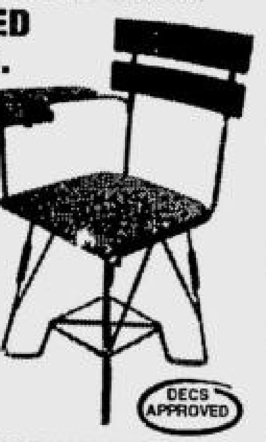

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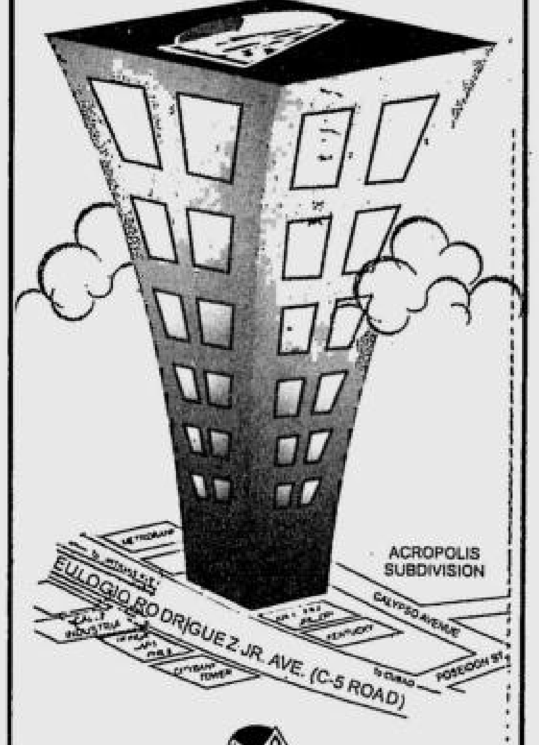

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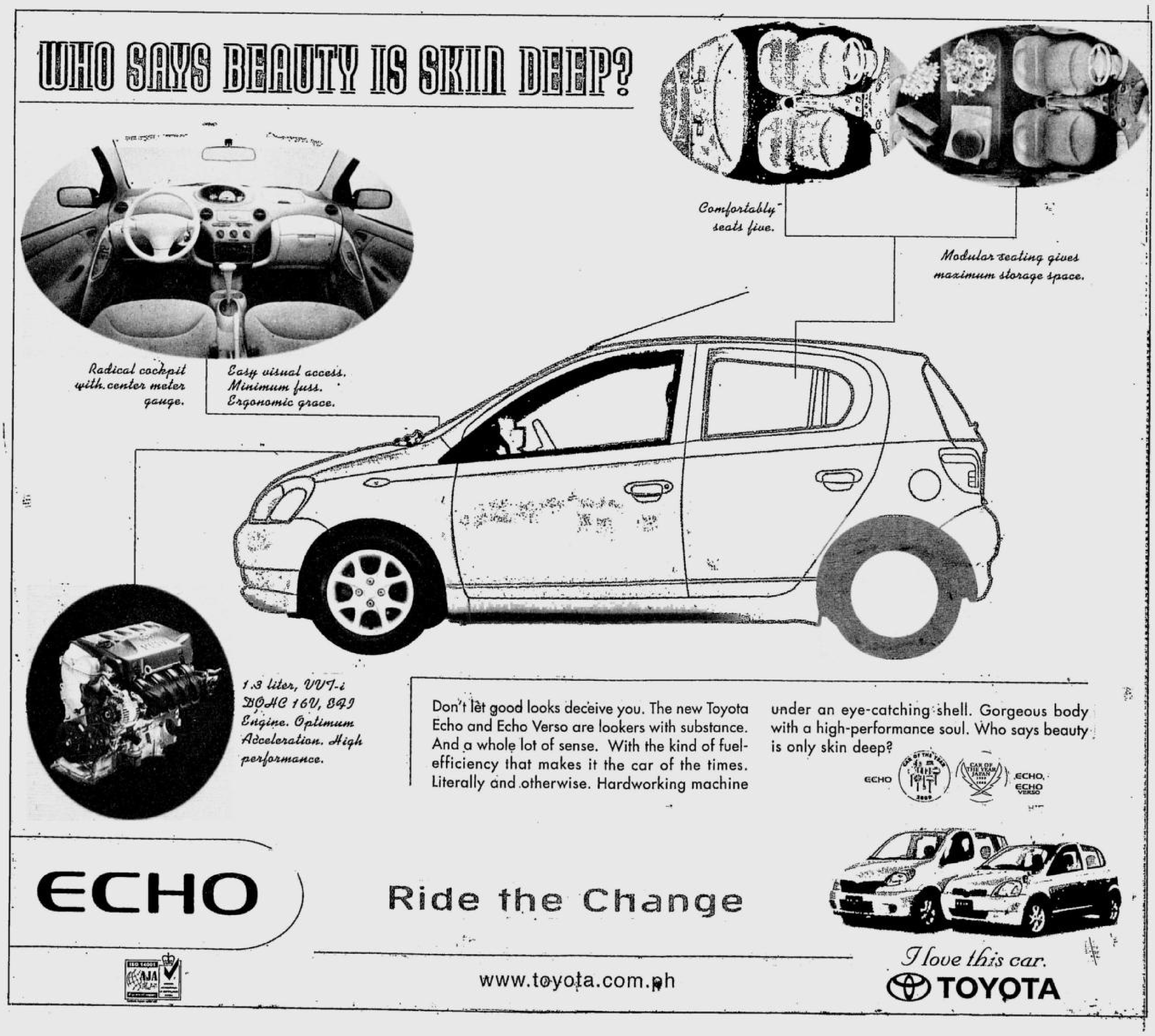
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OPINION

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Obstruction

EDITORIAL

DEMETRIO Demetria says the Supreme Court was being "too harsh" when it stripped him of his post as a Court of Appeals justice as well as all the benefits due him for intervening in a drug case last year. "This is my name at stake. My whole family is involved. They should not have done that to me just because they want to clean up the tribunal's image," Demetria said the day after the Supreme Court released its en banc decision finding him guilty of violating the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Those are good points to remember, especially when one is tempted to break the law or the rules on proper behavior. Unfortunately Demetria either forgot about them altogether or, remembering, he chose to ignore them when he went to see a government prosecutor on July 18, 2000.

On that day, according to the Supreme Court, Demetria tried to pressure State Prosecutor Pablo C. Formaran III to drop his motion asking Judge Manuel Muro of the Manila Trial Court to inhibit himself from trying the case against Yu Yuk Lai, who was facing drug trafficking charges after being caught in the act of delivering three kilos of shabu to a buyer. Court employees, hiding behind anonymity, had accused Muro of being partial to Yu, citing several orders favoring the accused. One of those orders allowed Yu to be confined in a hospital for an extended period of time, during which she was caught twice gambling in a casino. Demetria, who was with Yu's rumored lover Go Teng Kok and the latter's lawyer, Reinerio Paas, warned Formaran against basing his motion for Muro's inhibition on the anonymous letter of the court employees. That was after Go pleaded with the prosecutor to drop the motion, saying having another judge could delay the resolution of the case and lead to Yu's conviction.

Later that day, Demetria called Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño on the phone to ask that he instruct Formaran to drop the motion.

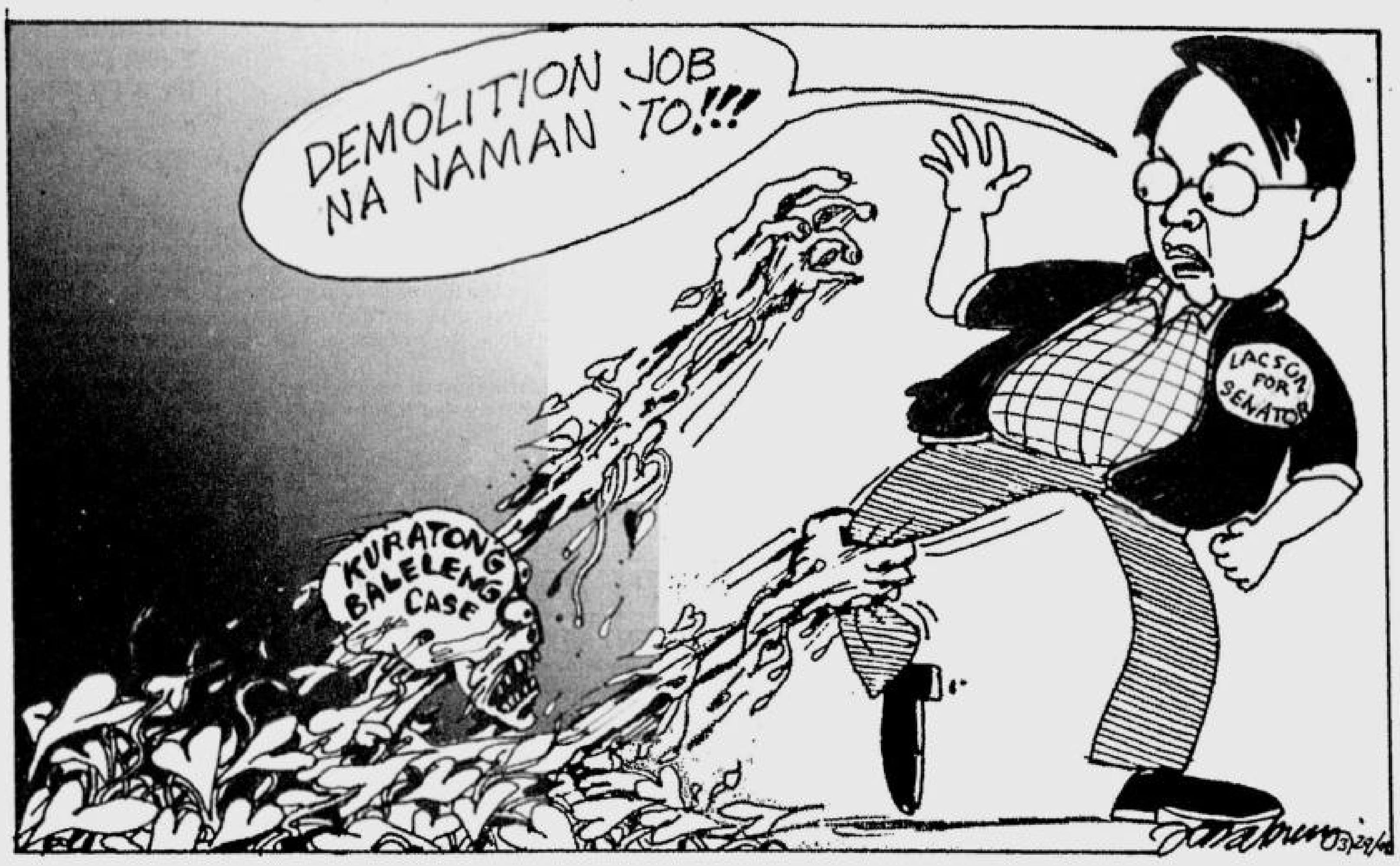
In his defense, Demetria said that his presence in Formaran's office was not a form of pressure. He also dismissed as hearsay the phone call to Zuño, saying the latter merely relied on his secretary who told him the call was from the Office of the Ombudsman. Demetria also said he could not have asked Formaran to help Go since it was only the first time he had met the two of them. In other words, it was all coincidence that he found himself in the same room with Go and Formaran, discussing the Yu case.

The Court, however, believed otherwise. Although it acknowledged that Demetria didn't ask Formaran directly to drop his motion for Muro's inhibition, the Court said his request that Formaran help Go already constituted subtle pressure by itself. The call to Zuño was more damning. By that action, the Court said, Demetria tried to exert his "moral ascendancy" over Zuño, both as an appellate court justice and as Zuño's former boss, having once served as undersecretary and then acting secretary of justice. What Demetria did was "a mockery of his high office" that has caused "incalculable damage to the judiciary," the Court concluded.

Although Demetria now goes down in legal history as the first justice to be dismissed, he can still count himself lucky that all he lost is his job and the benefits that should have been his after serving government for many years. Given its strong condemnation of his attempt to obstruct the administration of justice, Demetria could have expected no relief from the Court had he been convicted criminally. But it appears he has now escaped that fate completely. The Office of the Ombudsman, which investigated the case on its own initiative, concluded that there was insufficient evidence to charge Demetria criminally.

Which is a pity really. For here the Supreme Court is sending a very strong signal that it would brook no attempt to corrupt the ends of justice, but the Ombudsman says it cannot even try to put the man away for betraying his solemn oath. Of course, the Ombudsman can always say the rules on evidence are more stringent in criminal proceedings compared to administrative cases. We have all 14 Supreme Court justices who sat down to decide (the 15th was abroad) agreeing that the evidence of wrongdoing was strong enough as to warrant the imposition of the severest punishment in an administrative case against a justice of the Court of Appeals, and yet one ombudsman says in effect that they were all wrong?

Someone here has succeeded in blocking the law from taking its full course. And it is not Demetria.



PPC can't get 13-0 unless it cheats

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FANS of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago need not fret when she offered to have herself shot at the Luneta if the People Power Coalition shuts out the opposition, 13-0, in the senatorial contest. Senator Santiago will live many more years because the PPC will never get a 13-0 victory—unless it cheats in the May elections. 13-0 is wishful thinking. I know President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been jokingly referred to as another Pinocchio, but even if she wishes upon a star, it will never come true. As I said, unless the PPC is planning to cheat, how can it get Noli de Castro off the winning circle when he consistently tops the surveys? So the best it will get is 12-1.

But even that is too optimistic for the PPC. For one thing, the ticket has at least four very weak candidates (whom we shall not name in fairness to them). I am for throwing in the *kangkungan* all the characters who helped Erap—in the impeachment trial and elsewhere—but we have to face the reality that there are at least four strong candidates in the Puwersa ng Masa ticket, while four others will certainly end up in the bottom. De Castro is, as stated earlier, practically unbeatable. Ping Lacson, Edgardo Angara and Orly Mercado are three other strong contenders.

Angara's popularity suffered much because of his loyalty to Erap but he and Mercado remain among the last of the decent guys left in the Erap camp. Lacson's popularity rises the longer his successor, Chief Supt. Leandro Mendoza, stays as PNP head.

Almost as soon as Mendoza assumed the position, kidnappings resumed with a vengeance, not to say other petty crimes. He has not been able to solve any big case, notably the Bubby Dacer kidnapping case. Drivers of buses and jeepneys and cargo trucks complain that *kotong* cops are back. It seems that Karina Agarao and Teresita Ang See were right after all in opposing the appointment of Mendoza whose principal qualification seems to be that he is a townmate of Executive Secretary Renato de Villa.

All these make many people pine for the days of Lacson when policemen were not only disciplined but physically fit. Indeed, this is one of the things he promises to do if he becomes a senator, introduce a legislation that will reform the police force. (Others are an anti-racketeering law and the creation of an independent citizens' commission against graft and corruption, among others.) Which makes Lacson a more promising (no pun intended) senatorial candidate. In short, without realizing it, Mendoza is campaigning for Lacson.

Not only that, Lacson has helped so many victims of crime during his stint as PNP chief that there are many volunteers helping his campaign, donating campaign posters and contributing campaign funds, according to his handlers. According to one joke, even if Lacson loses the election, he is assured of a job as chief of police of Binondo.

Lacson himself thinks that the fact that so many charges are being hurled against him is an indication that the administration believes he may win and so the "demolition job" against him is particularly intense. The latest bomb is of course the surfacing of a witness who testified that he heard Lacson order the execution of the Kuratong Baleleng gang on Commonwealth Avenue, a case in which, Lacson claims, he has already been acquitted.

Indeed, the timing of the new witness is suspicious. Why did he surface only now after all these years? Even if it's true, the fact that it came out at the height of an election campaign makes people skeptical.

Then there is his alleged property in San Diego, California. The charge was peddled to media by Supt Reynaldo Berroya —whom Lacson claims he sent to jail for kidnapping—during a forum at the Rembrandt.

"Unfortunately, Berroya's story was not carried prominently by the national media," said a Lacson statement, "so the PPC is again trying to revive the issue."

Lacson admits having bought a modest property in Chula Vista, California in 1996, for which he paid a down payment and the balance payable through mortgage financing.

And contrary to allegations that he did not include it in his statement of assets and liabilities which is required of all civil servants, Lacson said it was included in his 1996 SAL. He said he bought the property because he and his wife thought of moving their children to the United States where his older brother Ernani Lacson lives.

Lacson said that at that time, they had been receiving many death threats because of his active role in apprehending many criminal suspects through the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

That San Diego property was sold some time in 1997 by his brother to whom he and his wife issued a power of attorney. There was hardly any profit from the sale after deducting property taxes, financing charges and sales commissions, he said.

All these transactions happened before Lacson went back to active service when Erap became president in 1998.

War and peace

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THE GOVERNMENT has announced its approval of future peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the National Democratic Front to take place in third countries, most likely Malaysia and Norway, respectively. Because the talks about holding peace talks were held so secretly, there is very little we know about the principles and the parameters of these talks. On such important matters, we need to have transparency from the government. To begin with, we need to see copies of any agreements, supposedly secret or not, signed by the government's plenipotentiaries.

Everyone favors peace, but it needs to be just and lasting. It can compromise neither fundamental principles nor vital public security in exchange for a brief armistice. "Those who would give up essential liberty in order to purchase a temporary safety," Benjamin Franklin noted, "deserve neither liberty nor safety." And to work, it needs broad public understanding and acceptance, especially in areas where the public will be most affected, for instance in the case of the MILF, in parts of Mindanao.

And in no instance has the government given us satisfaction that a basis for peace talks exists. There are, in brief, more questions than answers, questions the media reporters have either failed to ask or, if they have, have not yet been answered.

In the case of the MILF, for instance, who, under international agreements and by concurrence of the Organization of Islamic Conference, do we recognize as the sole legitimate representative of Filipino Muslims, the MILF or the Moro National Liberation Front? If the latter, on what basis is these talks being held? What role does the MNLF play in them? To what purpose are the talks being held?

What can we concede to the MILF that has not already been given to the MNLF under the Tripoli Agreement that could conceivably cause them to give up their armed struggle? Are we encouraging by such talks the future formation of new armed splinter groups?

Are we prepared to create another Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao? Will the MNLF agree? Where? Are we prepared to surrender camps or control of the roads? If so, how can the Armed Forces leadership, which risked the lives of officers and enlisted personnel to take what they then described as essential military objectives, now turn around and claim that these camps and roads have no military value? If not, why did they risk their men's and women's lives in the past? If so, why are they risking these lives in the future by surrendering these sites? Why don't we also rename Camp Aguinaldo the "Aguinaldo Christian Community" or our own military bunkers "irrigation facilities"?

How do we know that economic aid will not again be diverted to a military purpose? Exactly how do you grant autonomy without defining a territory? What are our negotiators' briefs?

Peace without principle is just another word for appeasement and surrender. There are similar questions that are crying for answers from the government in the case of the NDF. How can there be no tendency to internationalize the talks when they are being held in what is being described by the government itself as a "neutral" country?

How does the NDF represent itself in the signed agreement to hold talks, it having previously described itself as representing a "Philippine provisional government" in past documents signed by them and others, including Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, to effect the release of hostages? Can we see these signed agreements to hold talks? For any government official to sign such a document under that tenor would constitute treason and betrayal of his oath of office.

What is the ideological basis the NDF is using to justify these talks? Do they concede that armed struggle, if the talks are successful, can be ideologically abandoned in favor of a parliamentary struggle? What assurances or even analysis do we have to show that unlike the last such peace talks, "democratic space" will be used to build the peace and not to prepare for war? To cite a Russian proverb Ronald Reagan often quoted, we must "trust but verify."

The list of doubts and questions go on and on. And since this is a matter involving the public safety, all of us need to be brought into the government's confidence. If the government does not fully disclose and discuss these questions in order to reassure us, the only logical conclusions we can draw are either that it is hiding something or that it is as confounded as we are.

If that were so, it would be a sure-fire recipe for three unhappy consequences. Rumbles of discontent from the public will fester especially in the geographic areas most affected by the rebellions. This could take the form of anarchy in selected areas and a private arms race in others. Over time, that discontent will probably resonate among segments of the military, which is not good for our continued political stability. And finally, in the long run, it will strengthen rather than end these insurgencies.

Worst of all, the military authorities profess to have utopian dreams of converting the Armed Forces into an adjunct of the police in fighting crime. Such ideas have been considered and rejected in countries as far afield as the United States and South America. The dangers of such plans far outweigh the advantages. It will open our underpaid soldiers to the temptations of organized crime syndicates, including those involved in narcotics. It will develop ill discipline and corruption in the military. It will politicize the military not just nationally but locally as well. And it would leave us entirely bereft to meet any internal or external threats.

It is nothing short of idiotic to simultaneously enter into peace talks with the insurgents and announce that we are reconfiguring the Armed Forces of the Philippines into some vague anti-crime force. This simply encourages the republic's enemies to bide their time in peace talks until their foolish foes (that is, us) finally exchange their howitzers for love beads. Happily for those negotiating this, they may have long since retired from government by then. Unhappily for the rest of us, we will all still be here.

If there is something in all this that we do not understand, it is not for want of asking for an explanation from the government. War and peace are indeed too important a matter to be left solely to generals and politicians.

* * *

I wouldn't do a postscript like this for anyone else but UP. Dr. Pedro Lavadia Jr., a Filipino who emigrated to America three decades ago, has donated $40,000 to the UP College of Medicine (from whence both my late parents graduated) for the tuition, books, board and lodging costs of poor but qualified students. UP would like as many people as possible to know about the scholarships so that students may apply for the grants.

Is GMA a Kapampangan?

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo has told the people of Pampanga they owe a debt of gratitude to the 10 senators who catalyzed her becoming President—a Kapampangan President—and, therefore, should vote 13-0 in favor of the People Power Coalition senatorial slate. Will the Kapampangans oblige her?

According to Ms Macapagal, we Kapampangans must repay the Senate 10 and the congressmen-prosecutors who tried Joseph Estrada for pushing Gloria over to the top. Should we Kapampangans feel so obligated? How much of a Kapampangan is Ms Macapagal anyway?

Kapampangans are an independent lot. They're often willful and rebellious, the best proof of which is Pampanga's history of contesting the power and at times oppression of the government through the Huk rebellion in the 1950s and today's New People's Army, which counts many Kapampangans as adherents.

The Kapampangans may indeed vote for several PPC senatorial candidates, not necessarily to obey the wishes of the President, but because they're so inclined philosophically, politically and instinctively. So, Ms Macapagal's instruction, exhortation, request—however she may want to categorize it—for the Kapampangans to vote 13-0 may have been unnecessary after all. In fact, it could boomerang against her. Kapampangans don't take too kindly to being told what to do.

Ms Macapagal's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, was from Lubao and Floridablanca. Many Filipinos still remember him as Cong Dadong, the poor man from Lubao. Ms Macapagal speaks Kapampangan. The provincial link, therefore, is indisputable.

But Gloria's mother, the late Evangeline Macaraeg, was from Pangasinan. From anecdotal accounts, Gloria's mother was never close to the Kapampangans. People in the know would say this is an understatement. Kapampangans in the elder Macapagal's Cabinet and other provincial associates never felt comfortable with First Lady Eva Macapagal.

One such senior associate of the first President Macapagal, Executive Secretary Amelito Mutuc, was the one who came up with the label, "Mrs. Rule," alluding to Eva Macapagal. Other anecdotal stories are full of commentary about her dislike of Kapampangans and theirs of her.

It's for this reason that Kapampangans have felt ambivalent and awkward about Diosdado Macapagal and his second family (he has two children, Arturo and Cielo, from his first marriage). This is the reason Kapampangans have never felt free and spontaneous in claiming Gloria as one of their own. Many Kapampangans feel Gloria is more her mother's daughter than her father's.

Where, then, does Gloria get off telling the people of Pampanga to vote 13-0? And what has she done for Kapampangans lately anyway? For example, how many senior (emphasis on senior) Cabinet posts have gone to Kapampangans in Ms Macapagal's appointment binge?

In fact, the President has ignored qualified people who are either Kapampangan or have Kapampangan ties and who've been associated with her late father.

For example, Ms Macapagal has paid no attention to a career official in a government gaming agency who has been offering his services and experience. This person has an unblemished record in an otherwise corruption-plagued national bureaucracy, went to one of the "right" schools (La Salle) and has had an international banking career. The person's father fed, housed, funded and transported his long-time friend, Dadong Macapagal, in his early political days.

Another former associate of the late president could have been a valuable asset to Ms Macapagal in enhancing her image and her communication efforts. This person can be described as the protector, to this day, of the late President's image, name and legacy. In describing this person, the senior Macapagal could have called him an excellent writer, an able press secretary, a dependable associate. But Diosdado Macapagal chose instead to describe him simply as an upright man. Ms Macapagal could have benefited from this experienced professional's advice in the same way her father did. And while he's not a Kapampangan, he is married to a member of a prominent Pampango family.

It's curious that when Ms Macapagal got elevated to the presidency by default, no rejoicing in the streets took place in Pampanga. The instinct of one in such a triumphant state would be to rush home to celebrate, like a returning Caesar (or Cleopatra?), to the hosannas of the home folk.

If she's from Lubao, why hasn't she visited that town? Why haven't the Kapampangans been tripping over one another in entreating her to visit so they could bask in the reflected glory of her achievement? (I'm willing to bet, though, that after this commentary many Kapampangan social climbers and power trippers will play *sipsip* and trip over each other in giving testimonials to Ms Macapagal's links and closeness to Pampanga.)

Why, because they're not sure she's one of them. The Macapagals don't even have a residence in Lubao, or the whole of Pampanga, the reason why the elder Macapagal had to be housed and fed by his Lubao friends.

Ms Macapagal makes matters worse when she claims to have ancestral links to this and that town or province. She went to Cavite and claimed to be Caviteña. She has ancestral links to Iligan. And, of course, she's Pangasinense. In this and other respects, the President is playing politics by wanting to be everything to everybody. As someone who was close to President Diosdado Macapagal said, she might end up being "nothing to anybody."

Leandro V. Coronel, from Floridablanca, Pampanga, is a former spokesperson of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Getting to know 'Mayor Vi'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PERHAPS one of the better examples of entertainment personalities who struck out and joined the world of public service is Vilma Santos-Recto, mayor of Lipa City in Batangas and wife of Rep. Ralph Recto, the youngest among the 13 People Power Coalition senatorial candidates.

"Before I ran for office," Vilma tells us after partaking of a simple lunch of *pancit*, *puto* and *guinataang halo-halo*, "my impression was that I would not need much adjusting because I was already an *artista*. I thought it was the same thing—I'm used to crowds, to dealing with people. What I've learned since, though, is that being a public official is exactly the opposite of being a show-biz figure. As an *artista*, I was used to having people come to me, as mayor, I have to be the one to approach people, to talk to them. As an *artista*, I could act like a primadonna and demand to be given privacy if I wanted. But a public official cannot afford to stay away from the people, you have to be accessible to them, always."

People already know how, soon after she won, Vilma and the other city officials embarked on a crash course on local governance at the UP College of Public Administration. What many other don't know is that long before her plunge into politics, Vilma underwent what she herself calls "private tutorials" with Ralph, sessions on national and even global issues that Ralph, already a congressman by then, was more familiar with.

What even fewer people know is that in her first term as Lipa mayor, Vilma was constantly learning and upgrading her knowledge, while putting her considerable "people skills" to work. "She's an excellent facilitator," comments a city hall employee. "During meetings, if she notices someone who is obviously thinking about something, she will ask him: 'Is there something you want to say?' She has that knack for getting people to open up."

* * *

ABANSE! Pinay Party-list Rep. Pat Sarenas and I had traveled to Lipa for the blessing of "Sinag-Kababaihan," the Lipa City Center for Women. "Sinag" the Tagalog word for sunlight, also stands for "Sentrong Inaaruga at Ginagabayan ang Kababaihan (Center that Cares for and Guides Women)."

Sinag-Kababaihan is a collaboration between the Lipa city government and Abanse! Pinay, which allocated P1 million out of Representative Sarenas' initiatives for the construction of the center. It took just a single letter from Vice Mayor Fernando Manguera, acting on a resolution authored by Councilor Marieta Baroja-Igarta, and with her colleagues Rowena Sombrano and Ferdinand Calingasan as co-authors, to convince Abanse! Pinay to support the project. So far, Abanse! Pinay has helped fund almost 50 such women's centers nationwide.

But even better news is that "Mayor Vi" and "Kuya Boy," (as Manguera is known in Lipa) have also ensured that the center's operations would be funded, allocating P500,000 yearly for Sinag-Kababaihan's programs and services, designed to help women and children in crisis, as well as to provide training and skills upgrading for them. Also encouraging is the fact that the center's board of directors is made up of city officials as well as of representatives of civic organizations and NGOs.

* * *

AFTER MAYOR Vi spoke at the program marking Sinag-Kababaihan's inauguration, we teased her about what seems to be a newly acquired Batangueño accent. "*Eh ikaw ba naman ang makipag-usap sa kanila araw-araw* (What do you expect, when you have to talk to them this way every day)?" she laughingly remarked.

Though Lipeños should have had enough of "The Star for All Seasons" by now, there was still no lack of admirers queuing up to have their pictures taken with her at the end of the program. "What I noticed," said Pat afterwards, "is that they look up to her no longer as fans do toward a movie star, but as ordinary people who look to her with respect and even fondness."

In her talk, Mayor Vi cited two women she has portrayed in recent movies, the liberated Leah Bustamante in "Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa," and the long-suffering OFW and domestic in "Anak," drawing insights and lessons from these fictional women's lives. But it's soon obvious, as she tells us about her experiences as Lipa's mayor, that Vilma has drawn even stronger and longer-lasting lessons from her real-life role as mayor. And apart from her other roles as Ralph's wife and mother to Luis and Ryan ("the most show-biz in the family," she laughs), it seems like it's a role she has really sunk her teeth into.

* * *

SHORT takes: This is the last weekend of the Noritake Summer Sale at the Mayfair Center, Magallanes Commercial Center, Makati. For sale at really bargain prices are Noritake dinnerware and ceramic items, plus export overrun garments. Part of the proceeds from sales will go to fund women's causes. Don't miss it!

Calling the attention of all members of the Lourdes College (of Cagayan de Oro) High School Class '77. Planning for your Silver Jubilee celebration on February 2002 is going on. For details, contact Aileen Mison-Robles at Tel. No. 920-5728; Marjorie Fernandez-Esguerra at 284-0678 or Bernadette Blanco at 438-2848.

Women's Month comes to an end this Saturday at XYZone, "the show for women, by women, about women," with a one-on-one with lawyer-TV personality Katrina Legarda. She will be talking on women's legal rights and the status of women under the law. "XYZone," of which this columnist is the main host, airs every Saturday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. over dzAR, Angel Radyo, 1026 AM.

For April, "XYZone" will have as guests Corazon M. Raymundo on April 7, to talk on "Abortion: Illegal but Real"; Mariel Francisco on April 14, to speak on "Women and Creativity"; and two men senatorial candidates—Orly Mercado on April 21 and Johnny Flavier on April 28—to talk on "Is It a Man's World?" "XYZone" is a production of the Women's Media Circle.

* * *

For comments, etc., e-mail me at rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Early archaeological attempts

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONCE, on a heritage tour of Laguna, we wandered about Majayjay Church and saw part of an ancient wall nearby that had fallen. After observing the way bricks and cement were arranged, I walked over to one side of this moss-covered wall and noticed freshly eroded earth that contained broken pieces of blue and white porcelain. I was not interested in these clues to pre-colonial trade at the time and I remember being more worried about germs in the soil than archaeological data. Today, I regret not having picked up a number of shards, if only to date part of this ancient Majayjay grave by association with Chinese ceramics. In retrospect, I wonder how much more could be found if the National Museum were to dig systematically in the area.

One does not have to go far from the city for something like this. Before the war, H. Otley Beyer found so much material when downtown Manila was being dug up to lay foundations for new buildings. In recent years broken pieces of porcelain have been found around the city when roads were being widened. For over a century archaeological artifacts have been coming out of the earth but there has been little academic interest in them. So many homes have pieces of ancient Oriental ceramics used as decorative accents to a sala, or worse, used as ashtrays and planters. We can never realize how much of our past has been lost to fulfill the demands of interior decorators.

Long before Alfred Marche excavated those burial caves in Marinduque in 1881 and carted away the artifacts that now await study in the Musee de l'Homme in Paris, so much has been uncovered accidentally all over the Philippines each time roads or houses were built, or even when fields were plowed. Like me, the finders were superstitious and quietly returned the artifacts to the earth with profuse apologies, or worse, destroyed these, fearful of vengeful spirits. Each time stray pieces of ancient Oriental ceramics are found, they point to ancient grave sites that can yield more information on the way ancient Filipinos treated their dead. More importantly, from this data we can also find out how they lived.

Feodor Jagor traveled around the Philippines in the 1870s, in the days before hotels and cars, when the best board and lodging outside Spanish Manila or Intramuros was usually provided by parish priests. In Naga, Jagor met the parish priest of Ligmanan who had amassed a large collection of artifacts. This collection contained beetles, shells and other curiosities brought to him by parishioners. The unidentified parish priest related that when a road was built in a place called Poro, a short distance from Ligmanan, a shell bed was dug up under four feet of mound. What made this rather unusual was that the shell site was 100 feet from the river. Builders had accidentally dug up an ancient dump. These shells (later identified as *Cyrenae suborbicularis, Busch*) must have been consumed by ancient Filipinos and thrown in that heap. When they dug beneath the shells, a mixed bunch of human and animal bones were found: skulls, long bones, short bones and even a child's thigh bone bound by a spiral piece of brass. There were the usual things: bracelets, Oriental ceramics, copper knives (there were no iron utensils) and flat stones that had been bored through the middle and perhaps used as ornaments. Obviously, yesterday's *basura* can sometimes be today's priceless treasure.

Unlike Marche, who investigated the reports of these findings and actually cleaned out those Marinduque caves, Jagor just noted down what was related to him and published it in his book "Reisen in den Philippinen," translated from the original German and published in London in 1875 as "Travels in the Philippines." In Chapter 15, Jagor provides an illustration of a small Chinese jarlet with two ears that he managed to acquire with some persistence. Jagor says of the reported archaeological sites:

"The place, which to this day may be easily recognized in a hollow, might by excavation systematically carried on, yield many more interesting results. What was not immediately useful was then and there destroyed, and the remainder dispersed. In spite of every endeavor, I could obtain, through the kindness of Herr Fociños in Naga, only one small vessel." This vessel was a small jarlet with two ears.

Then as now, archaeological data have been lost due to amateur digging or looting of archaeological sites. It is rather intriguing that when Col. F.F. Hilder was in the Philippines in 1901 to purchase specimens for the colonial exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition, he used the illustration in Jagor's book to justify the acquisition of broken pieces of pottery and bone excavated from an old cemetery in Santa Ana. Systematic excavation of the area in and around the Santa Ana Church was undertaken only in the 1960s. The Chinese porcelain found with the bones dated the graves to pre-Spanish times. Much has been found in Santa Ana, much is still underground in Santa Ana but can we make sense of the material and reconstruct pre-colonial life?

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The arithmetic of the Senate elections

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

IF deposed President Estrada thinks that he would be politically vindicated in the coming May 14 elections, he'd better do some arithmetic.

For starters, there'll be 11 incumbent senators remaining in the 24-seat chamber, whose terms will expire in 2004. The 12th seat was vacated by Teofisto Guingona to assume the vice presidency—that's why there are 13 slots to be filled.

Out of the 11 remaining in the Senate, five are President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's allies: Loren Legarda-Leviste, Renato Cayetano, Robert Barbers, Rodolfo Biazon and Aquilino Pimentel. On the other hand, six are Estrada's known supporters: Vicente Sotto III, Blas Ople, John Osmeña, Teresita Aquino-Oreta, Ramon Revilla and Robert Jaworksi.

The Erap camp could even be reduced to just four. We don't think that Ramon Revilla and especially Jaworksi—who tried joining the final Edsa II rally, but was nearly slapped by several rallyists—are really Estrada's lapdogs.

Now the arithmetic. Just eight People Power Coalition senators winning in the elections plus the five incumbent legislators who are allies of Ms Macapagal equals 13 senators, which make up a simple majority in the new Senate, the minimum ratio needed to pass a law.

Eleven winning PPC candidates would make the pro-administration bloc account for two-thirds of the Senate, the minimum ratio to pass such important Senate decisions as treaty ratification and impeachment.

Now, for lack of any other hard data, we'd have to rely on the Social Weather Stations' surveys, to check how many are likely to win:

Social Weather Stations' surveys

Candidates	Ranking in the March 5-18, 2001 survey	Ranking in the Feb. 2-7, 2001 survey
DE CASTRO, Noli	1	1-2
FLAVIER, Juan	2	3
MAGSAYSAY, Ramon	3-4	4
DRILON, Franklin	3-4	1-2
OSMEÑA, Sergio	5	6
ARROYO, Joker	6	5
VILLAR, Manuel	7-8	14-16
MERCADO, Orlando	7-8	11-12
PANGILINAN, Francis	9	9-10
RECTO, Ralph	10	13
ANGARA, Edgardo	11-12	11-12
HONASAN, Gregorio	11-12	9-10
SANTIAGO, Miriam	13	7-8
ENRILE, Juan Ponce	14	7-8
LACSON, Panfilo	15	17-19
PUNO, Ricardo	16	17-19
HERRERA, Ernesto	17	22-23
EJERCITO, Luisa	18	24
MONSOD, Solita	19-20	32-35
TAÑADA, Wigberto	19-20	30-31
PAGDANGANAN, R.	21	22-23

Looks like broadcaster Noli de Castro is a sure winner. De Castro certainly isn't really an Estrada man, and he owes nothing to the deposed president. He, and the Lopez clan who owns the ABS-CBN network responsible for his media existence, had in fact lobbied for the broadcaster to be included in the PPC ticket. The clan even rejected an emotional appeal by Estrada for De Castro to run under his slate.

But its experience during the Marcos years seared a policy in the Lopez clan's collective consciousness, one which most business conglomerates unsurprisingly adopt: support whoever is in power. (The corollary of the policy of course would be their marching orders to their people in government: be sure to defend and advance our interests.) De Castro will no doubt toe that line.

And then there's Orly Mercado at the seventh to eighth place. He's certainly not a die-hard Erap man. He would in fact have been in Ms Macapagal's Cabinet if he had not felt insulted that retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia had been appointed national security adviser. Remember that Mercado and Ms Macapagal were former colleagues in the Senate in the 1990s, and they go along fairly well.

We bet that the first 10 senators in the SWS list are sure winners. The last two in this list, Pangilinan and Recto—for those not too familiar with the Philippines—are husbands of movie superstars, who seem to have proven that they can call on their millions of fans to support their spouses.

The arithmetic so far, assuming the SWS polls would be an accurate forecast for the results of the May elections: The administration can reasonably expect that 10 out of the 13 new senators would be supportive of its legislative agenda. Plus the five remaining in the Senate, that makes for 18 senators who are likely to be the administration's allies, just one senator less for a two-thirds bloc in the 24-man Senate.

Look closely at the SWS results for the two periods, and the chances are good for the PPC to get one or even two more winners.

After a month's campaigning, the rankings of Estrada's candidates making it in the circle of 13 have either been static or have gone down. Angara is stuck at the 11th and 12th slot. Honasan has gone down from the 9th to 10th slot in February to the 11th to 12th ranks in March. And they're all in the danger zone slots of 11 to 13.

Despite the fact that he appears to have thrown the most funds into the contest, and his message that recent spectacular kidnappings only show that he's needed back in government, ex-Gen. Panfilo Lacson has not been able to enter the winning circle.

These trends are significant. It would not have been hard for Lacson especially, and the other Estrada candidates to get funds from their businessmen-friends or from the ex-president's cronies early in the campaign. These financiers though would start hesitating throwing in more money to candidates who are barely making it in the winning circle. They'd be soon telling Lacson and the other Estrada candidates that they've given all the money they can, and now they have to watch their own backs too—by financing the obviously winnable candidates, who are mostly the administration candidates. The electoral machine of the Erap candidates is likely to run out of gas—in the crucial homestretch.

Imagine yourself as Lacson. You've had P200 million and you spent half of it for the campaign. Yet you're still not in the winning circle, and you realize that in your two years as top cop, you haven't really been able to create a charisma like Alfredo Lim. And then you still have these human rights groups running after you for the Kuratong Baleleng massacre, and probably soon, for PR man Bubby Dacer's disappearance. Would you go for broke and spend all of your money for the campaign? Or would you decide to just keep P100 million for your defense fund—after all, the charges involve capital punishment—and for your quiet retirement in your San Francisco mansion?

And then look how the rankings of the PPC coalition candidates not in the winning circle of 13—Herrera, Monsod and Tañada—have dramatically improved in a month's campaign. Their problem is merely name recall. In contrast, the Estrada candidates may have name recall, but they face negative sentiment—for being lapdogs of a disgraced president.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

Artistic expression or producers' profits?

HAIL to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for making a resolute stand against celluloid smut. But no-hail to her for committing her second appointment blunder. The first blunder was appointing a military man to the Department of National Defense post, which would have been better served by a civilian to "balance" a military mind-set. The second blunder is Nicanor Tiongson.

Tiongson resigned as Movie and Television Review and Classification Board chief, crying "repression of freedom" and "religious bigotry" against Jaime Cardinal Sin and Ms Macapagal. The basic flaw is the same as in the Erap administration with the appointment of a show-biz personality to the censorship board. It is all Ms Macapagal's fault. She should have appointed not a "theater" person sensitive to "art" but a "censorship" person sensitive to how the minds of the youth can be polluted by "art."

Show-biz personalities can never be good censorship persons. They have a mind-set diametrically opposed to the ethics of censorship. Tiongson, bred by the theater, the arts and academe, views "Live Show" as an art piece and an expression of art and freedom. He fails to see that no matter how artistic it is, there is a basic censorship issue on the very essence of the topic. Did the scriptwriter, producer and director sincerely work on an art piece or were they using the title and the topic to draw viewers to make a killing? Is the issue really art, freedom, or profit?

Over and beyond the motives of the people who made the film, censorship must not be done by theater people because of a basic conflict of interest to support theater. President Macapagal should get a priest or a layman with a sound religious background to balance the bias of theater and arts people.—**BERNIE LOPEZ, eastwind@edsamail. com.ph**

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3) 5 units of Motorola T-2288
4) 5 units of Nokia 5110
5) 5 units of Panasonic GD-30
6) 5 units of Nokia 3210

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Ineffectiveness of the Comelec gun ban

RECENTLY, a very close family friend of ours, who is of Filipino-Chinese origin, was kidnapped by armed men and held for ransom. A kind and decent man and *ninong* to my marriage, he does not deserve this cruel fate and it pains me to personally witness the agony his family is going through.

Not that this recent rash of rape, robberies, murders and kidnappings, none of them politically motivated, surprises me anymore. The same thing happened in 1992 right after the Commission on Elections imposed a six-month election gun ban. Just recently I presented police statistics in Congress that showed an alarming trend of crimes shooting up during the election gun ban of 1992 and 1995. And, if the media are to be believed, it is happening all over again.

This must inevitably lead us to face some inescapable truths, no matter how much we deny it. An election gun ban, or any other gun ban for that matter, doesn't stop criminals. The death penalty does not stop criminals. Checkpoints do not stop criminals. The only thing that can stop criminals is the fear that their victim might be able to kill them instead. This leads to only two doable solutions: licensed gun owners, being authorized to carry their firearms and secret marshals in civilian clothes. I leave it to those who believe in gun bans and a gunless society to consider which one is the best.

Before anyone gives the stock response that it is the job of the police to catch criminals, ask yourselves these questions first. One, what do you do when the criminal is a lawman? Two, if so, do you have any idea how hard it is to prosecute law enforcers? And three, given the *kabaro* system, can anyone give any practical reason why a policeman would stick his neck out 100 percent to catch a brother policeman?

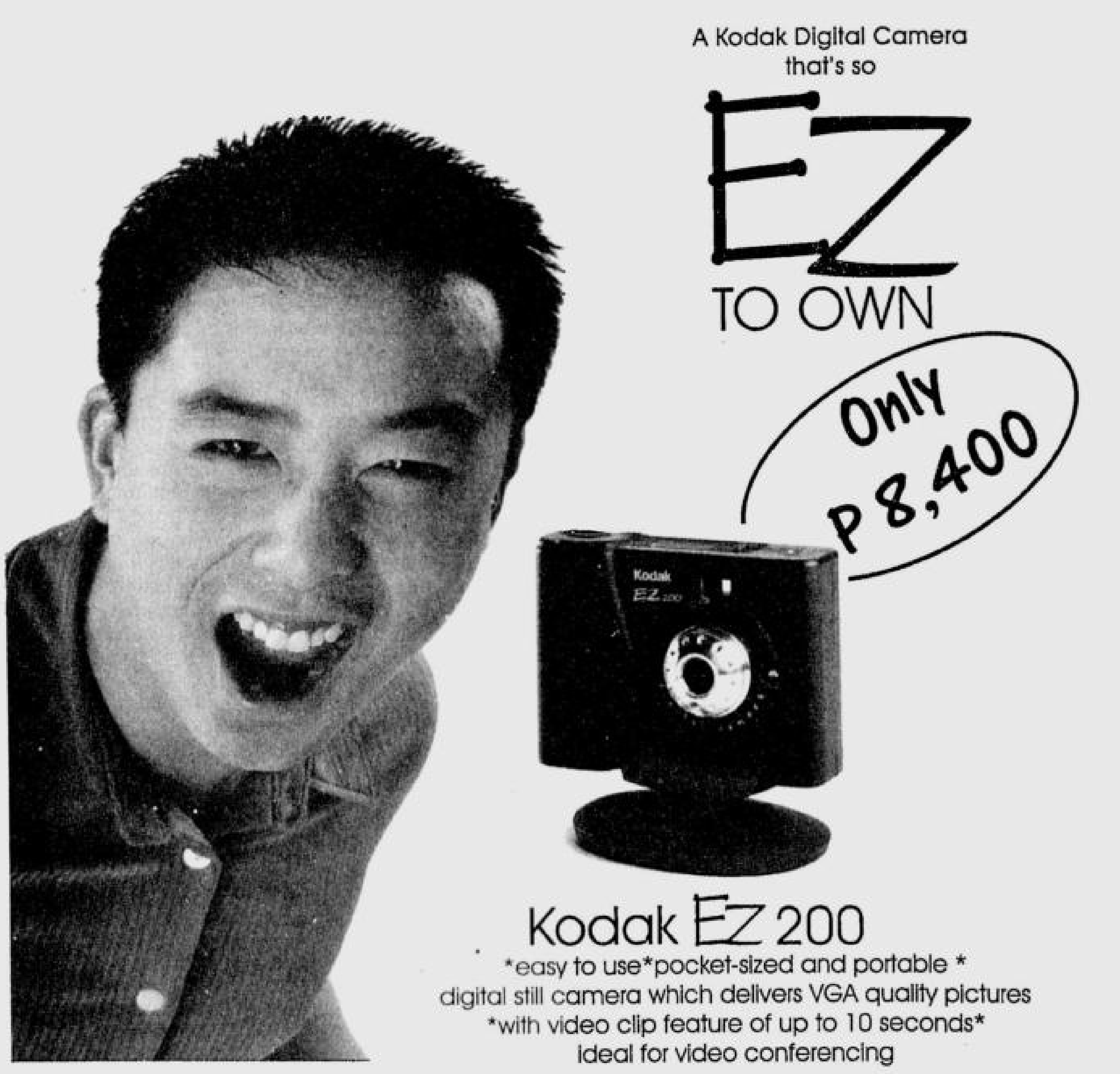
Election laws mandated the gun ban aimed at civilians to prevent election-related violence. Therefore, what we are seeing now is just the price we must pay for non-violent elections that the gun ban is expected to ensure. We should therefore not be too upset about De La Salle coeds getting gang-raped, kind *ninongs* getting kidnapped and journalists getting stabbed. We have our gun ban, we have our police and that is enough—so let's just sit back and watch those atrocities mount and the body count rise.—**MANNY MOLINA, Kamuning, Quezon City**

End political dynasties

POLITICS today is something that can make one sick. Whoever thought of reinventing politics as a "hand-me-down" tradition must be feeling royal, just like having descended from the House of Windsor and similar dynasties, whose heirs to the throne are in the line of succession.

Here, this is copied closely and it looks like our country is nothing more than a fiefdom! For instance, when a congressman has finished his last term, he would field his wife or any family member to succeeded him in Congress. Such an atrocious practice effectively shuts out other more deserving aspirants. To perpetuate his "dynasty," the ex-congressman will then run for another position. If he was a bench warmer in Congress with a lackluster performance, could he do better in his next job? As long as voters abet this vicious cycle, political dynasties will govern us for a long, long time.

In the coming elections, let us not pass up the chance to choose candidates of known probity, competence and trustworthiness. This time, let it not be said that we get the government we deserve because many voters still prefer popularity to competence and moral uprightness.—**ADELFA L. ETRUISTE, E. Glinoga Street, Barangay Castillo, Pitogo, Quezon**



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Kodak Digital

Pornography

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LAST week, a group of people, including Philippine National Police superintendents, several fundamentalist bishops and several fruitcakes like Sonia Ronda and Etta Mendez met to hold the Philippine Summit on Pornography. They issued a statement—"A Manifesto of Concern of God's People Coalition for Righteousness"—that called for the banning of movies like "Live Show."

These movies, they said, were "a complete mockery of the declared policy of our President for moral renewal in civil society and government. (They are) an affront and insult to the moral sensibility of the citizens of this country who deserve decency from the entertainment industry. (They are) an affront to human dignity and the right of children and the youth to be brought up in an environment of decency and morality."

There *is* reason to worry about obscenity, as I said the other day. But there is even more reason to worry about an anti-smut campaign being mounted by people like these. That is like putting guns in the hands of retarded people and sending them out to keep the peace. Which we are in fact already doing with the PNP.

I will not repeat what I've said about "Live Show." Especially in light of its excoriation by people whose concept of a righteous and uplifting movie is "The Ping Lacson Story." But something has to be said about their capacity for selective perception and selective morality.

At the very least, they miss the forest for the trees. The richest source of pornography—X movies or pictures—at this point is not the movie houses, it is the Internet. Anyone with a computer and an Internet account can easily access a lode mine of what used to be called "dirty pictures." Or whole X-rated movies, courtesy of what's called "streaming video," which allows you to watch those movies in "real time," without being able to download them. Lest you think that is confined only to a small sector of the population, or only to spectacle-wearing nerds, guess again. Cyberspace is the favorite hangout of the youth, as witness the phenomenal growth of cybercafés, patronized to a great extent by students.

What do you want to do now—censor their use too?

Quite incidentally, which should hold an important lesson here, pornography, which used to be the most popular fare in the Internet, has lost to MP3 in that department. MP3s are compressed music files that can be downloaded easily. If an Asiaweek report last year is to be believed, students who used to spend sleepless nights downloading dirty pictures now spend sleepless nights downloading MP3s. I don't know how the closing down of Napster has affected that, but that's another story. The lesson here is simple: You have a better product, you'll beat pornography anytime.

The solution is not to suppress, it is to supplant. Suppression merely does the opposite, which is to create demand. I understand that in Cebu, some places are charging a thousand bucks for real *toro* shows. Well, they asked for it.

But more than this, the PNP officials and company's anti-smut campaign does not only miss the point, it hides the point. It not only does not help, it harms. It diverts attention from the real obscenities that are happening in life, obscenities in the police, the Catholic Church, and the moralists are duty-bound to do something about. No, more than that, it diverts attention from the real obscenities law enforcement, fundamentalist religion and moralism have themselves become in this country.

The real pornography doesn't happen in the movies, it happens all around us. In ways that far more powerfully and subversively assail the mind, in ways that far more frighteningly and odiously warp our values, than any of the kinky sex in self-confessed or proudly proclaimed X-rated movies. What can be more pornographic than the involvement of the PNP in drug trafficking and *jueteng* (as abundantly shown by Chavit Singson in the impeachment trial)? For crying out loud, our very own PNP chief stands accused by an anti-crime group of having links to drug lords.

You know there's something wrong somewhere when torturers, "salvagers" and people who figure in shootouts in karaoke bars start burning smut periodicals (they did that sometime back) and padlocking whorehouses as though the latter were the curse of the world. You know there's something wrong somewhere when big-time crooks, bribe-takers and coddlers of criminals start demanding the banning of pornographic movies as though they were the bane of the world. It's not surprising they should point to "Live Show" as one of them. Their ability to tell the corrupt from the decent, the moral from the immoral, the evil in the world from the evil in their hearts, has never been evident.

And what can be more pornographic than the Catholic Church owning vast tracks of lands and banks while the people whose souls they propose to save have bodies that are drowning in filth and garbage? The "drowning" is not completely metaphorical if you see Payatas. The true obscenity, as "Live Show" itself tries to show, is not people exposing their bodies before the gallery, it is people—including children—being exposed to the unbelievable improvidence and heartlessness of their world. And the scorn of those who propose to save them from themselves. What can be more pornographic than that the Catholic Church and Corazon Aquino should own haciendas, in flagrant violation of the land reform law of this country, while their brethren live in cardboard shelters where they sleep and shit and make love? And they talk of free will and choice and morality.

You watch an X-rated movie in a movie house, and the worst you can do is go home and jerk off. What can you do when you are deluged daily by these X-rated iniquities in real life? What can you do when you see the law enforcers enforce crime, when the Catholic Church extols inequality, when Ronda and Mendez inflict themselves on your gaze? What can you do when they tell you your greatest obstacle to salvation is the sight of people f—ing their brains out?

Well, maybe you can issue a manifesto that says they are a complete mockery of the declared policy of the President for moral renewal in civil society and government. They are an affront and insult to the moral sensibility of the citizens of this country who deserve decency from their leaders. They are an affront to human dignity and the right of the children and the youth to be brought up in an environment of decency and morality.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

SSS has enough funds for members

THIS is with reference to the letter of Regional Trial Court Judge Jesus Quintain, which was cited in the Feb. 24 column of Isagani Cruz titled, "Losers and gainers." Allow us to correct inaccuracies in the article

1. Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System members received less cash dividends last December.

The SSS does not grant cash dividends to its members. The SSS is a social insurance institution and does not operate like a private insurance company.

2. For lack of funds, the SSS and the GSIS may not be able to grant its members housing loans or even substantial salary loans. Moreover, retirees this year may not get their gratuitous at once, even as the current monthly pensions may not be paid on time.

The SSS has more than enough funds for benefit payments to its more than 700,000 pensioners nationwide and it can provide housing loans to more than 22 million SSS members. As of end 2000, SSS assets have reached more than P185 billion.

Last year, the SSS increased the maximum amount of salary loan from P15,000 to P24,000, and increased the amount of bank-assisted housing loans and opened a P3-billion direct housing loan facility for overseas workers and trade union members.—**JOEL P. PALACIOS, assistant vice president, Media Affairs Department, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Cabinet authorizes more armed attacks on Palestinians

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's security Cabinet has given the green light to more attacks against Palestinian targets, after approving helicopter raids that left two dead and more than 60 wounded, a government source said.

After meeting late into Wednesday night, the Cabinet authorized Sharon and defense minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer to order further action with the approval of foreign minister Shimon Peres.

The three were given the go-ahead to order not only responses to Palestinian attacks but also individual pre-emptive measures, the government source said.

The Cabinet also justified Wednesday's air strikes against posts of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Force 17 bodyguard unit, saying that officials in Arafat's Palestinian Authority "were found to be intensively involved in terrorism."

The bombings were ordered against "precise targets of officials linked to terrorism," Sharon's office said in a statement.

Ben Eliezer told Israel's Channel Two television that "the raids are message to Yasser Arafat . . . so that he understands that our patience is at its end."

Before the meeting, Ben Eliezer accused the Palestinian Authority of having declared war on Israel.

"It's a state of war; the Palestinians are fighting us day and night," Ben Eliezer told public television.

"Those who believe the government is going to stay with its arms folded are badly mistaken," he said.

In separate remarks before his security Cabinet convened, Sharon vowed to crack down on the violence and restore security to Israel.

"Everyone who sees these things that have occurred over the course of 36 hours understands exactly what kind of situation we are in," Sharon told reporters in remarks broadcast on Israeli Army radio.

"The situation is clear and this situation will be stopped. Israel's deterrent capacity will return to its fullest," he added.

The radio also quoted Sharon as describing Arafat as "a terrorist leader."

The meeting and military action follow a bomb blast in central Israel near the border with the West Bank that killed two Israeli teenagers and the bomber, the day after two attacks in Jerusalem that killed a suicide bomber and left dozens of Israelis injured.

Tayeb Abdel Rahim, secretary of the Palestinian presidency, said the helicopter raids were "an escalation of Israeli aggression." *AFP*

For first time, McVeigh admits setting off Oklahoma explosion

NEW YORK—Convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh has explicitly admitted for the first time to causing the blast that killed 168 people and has said it was a revenge attack for two FBI raids, according to a new book.

McVeigh told the authors of "American Terrorist: Timothy McVeigh and the Oklahoma City Bombing," to be published on Tuesday, that he alone conceived and executed the plan to bomb the Alfred P. Murrah federal government building on April 19, 1995.

The authors, two reporters for the Buffalo News daily newspaper, said on ABC News' "Primetime Thursday" television program that McVeigh referred to the children killed in the bombing as ``collateral damage." But the authors also quoted McVeigh as saying that he had not realized that the building housed a day-care center and might have chosen a different target if he had known.

ABC News released excerpts of its interviews with Buffalo News reporters Lou Michel and Dan Herbeck before their scheduled broadcast at 10 p.m. on Thursday. McVeigh was raised in Pendleton, New York, outside Buffalo.

The bombing killed 168 people, 19 of them children, in the worst act of terrorism on US soil. McVeigh, 32, is set to die by injection on May 16 in a federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana.

According to Michel, McVeigh admitted that his Army buddy Terry Nichols helped him build the bomb, but he insisted that the attack was his idea and said he carried it out in revenge for FBI raids in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in 1992 and at Waco, Texas, two years to the day before the Oklahoma blast.

Michel told ABC News that McVeigh quoted from the movie "A Few Good Men." "He said to me, 'You can't handle the truth,' and then Tim added his own line, 'because the truth is I blew up the Murrah building, and isn't it kind of scary that one man could reap this kind of hell?'" Michel said.

In Oklahoma on Wednesday, an attorney who represented McVeigh in his 1997 trial said he believed "several" people were involved in the bombing and McVeigh was claiming sole responsibility "to draw attention to himself."

Stephen Jones, who is based in Enid, Oklahoma, said: "In my opinion, that statement was made for its sensational value, and it is not necessarily the truth. I don't think it is the truth." Jones wrote a book about the bombing titled "Others Unknown." *Reuters*

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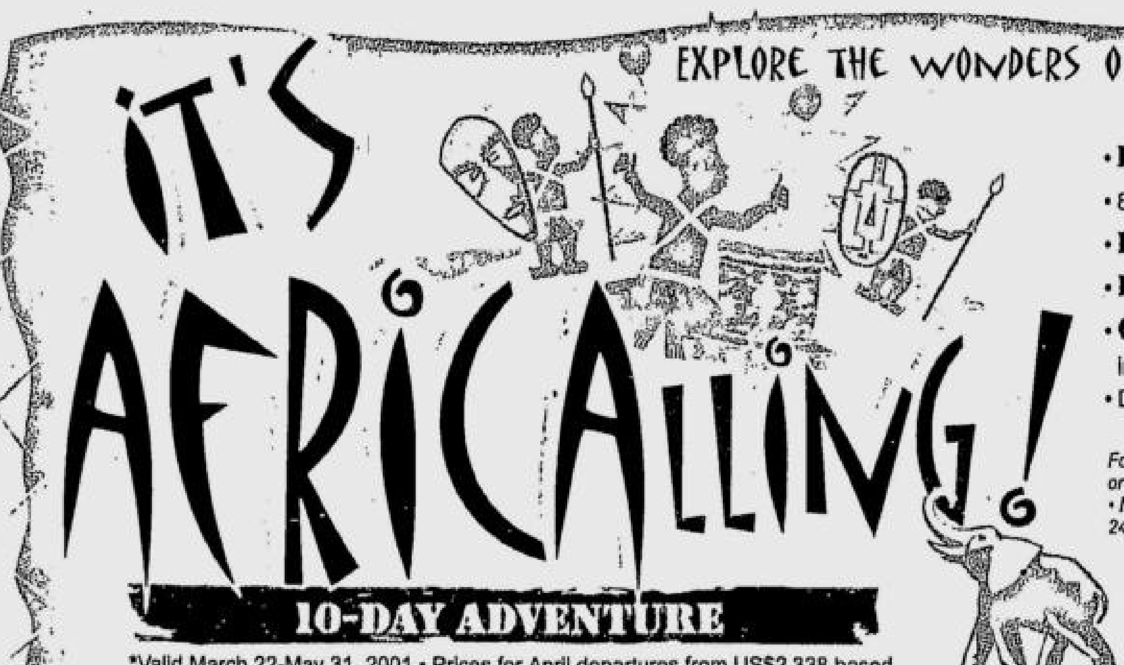

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Macedonian forces launch fresh offensive on rebel strongholds

LIPKOVO, Macedonia—Macedonian forces launched a fresh offensive Wednesday against Albanian rebels along the northern border with Kosovo, using artillery and mortars in a bid to flush guerrillas from their mountain strongholds.

The assault appeared to be a final push to uproot the guerrillas, who were driven back toward Kosovo at the weekend from the northwestern town of Tetovo.

Skopje says the rebels are Kosovo Albanians trying to sow trouble in multi-ethnic Macedonia.

There were no reports of casualties. An Army spokesperson said late Wednesday that an officer was killed and two soldiers were injured in the north of the country when their vehicle hit a landmine.

The incident occurred at 5 p.m. near the village of Tanusevci, an area that was formerly held by ethnic Albanian rebels belonging to the National Liberation Army, Col. Blagoja Markovski said.

"A captain was killed on the spot, while the two injured soldiers are out of danger," he added.

Meanwhile, UN warcrimes court chief prosecutor Carla del Ponte said during a long-planned visit to Skopje that claims that Albanian rebels carried out war crimes in the northern Macedonian hills will be investigated by the international tribunal in The Hague.

"I will send as soon as possible an investigation team to Skopje to gather further details," Del Ponte said.

Earlier, heavily armed special police blocked routes north of the ethnic Albanian village of Lipkovo, some 20 km northeast of Skopje and sporadic mortar fire could be heard in the surrounding Black Mountains, toward the Kosovo frontier.

A villager said that some 250 Macedonian Army troops spent the night in the village before leaving at 6:30 a.m. to deploy onto high ground overlooking the route into the mountains.

"They were very aggressive, but they didn't search our homes. When they come in here with their weapons we think they want to provoke some kind of incident," said Ismail Veseli, 31.

Markovski said his troops had softened up rebel positions with artillery fire "to break terrorists along the northern border where there have been provocations."

He said the Army and Police were operating near the villages of Brest, Malino Malo and Gosince, where clashes took place earlier this month with rebels before the mid-March battle around Tetovo.

The villages are just a few kilometers north of Lipkovo, an ethnic Albanian village of some 3,500 people in the foothills of the mountain range.

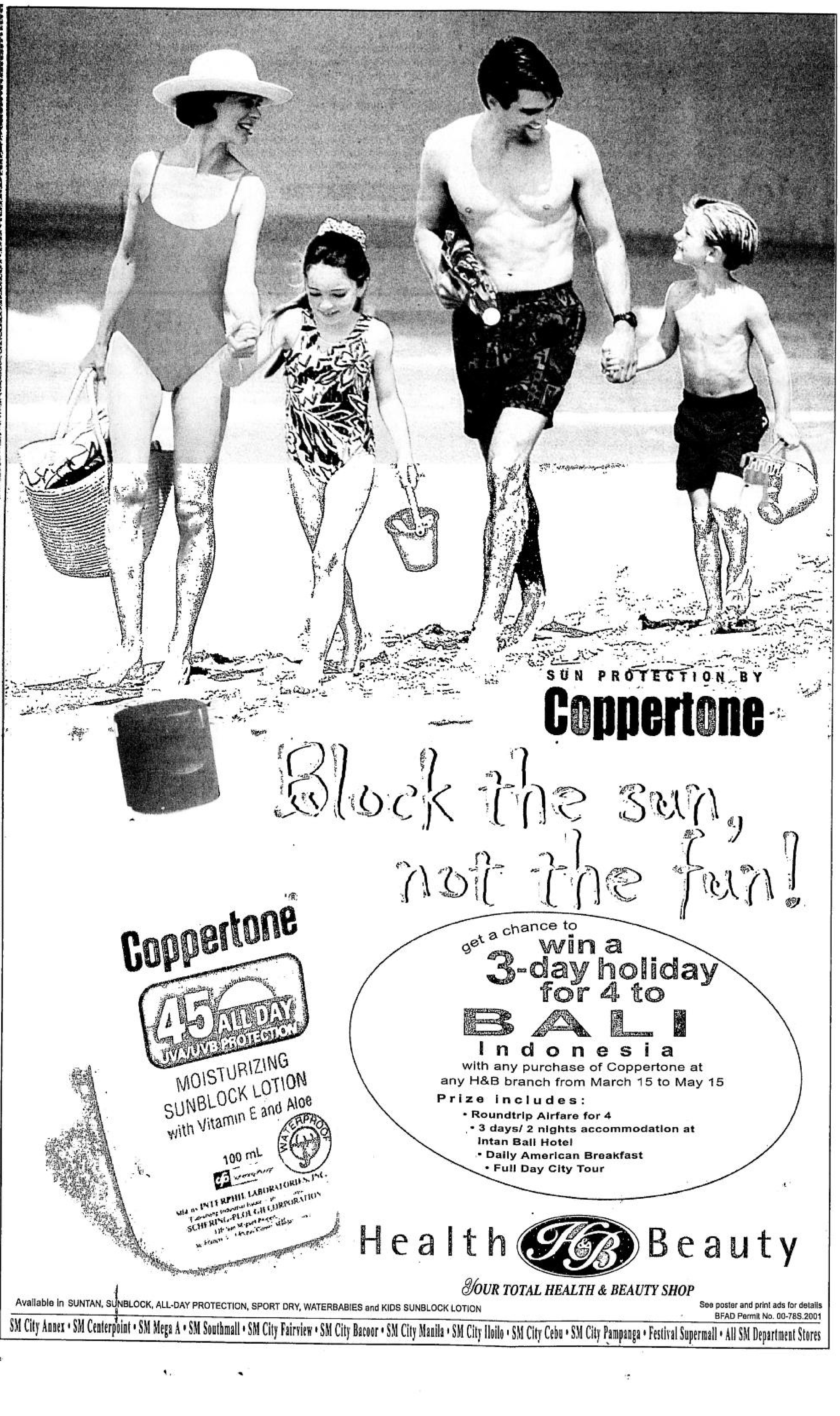
The village's member of parliament said in a statement Wednesday he was off to join the rebels and called on his constituents to do the same.

Hisni Shaqiri, 52, of the moderate Democratic Party of Albanians (DPA), said he was giving up his parliamentary position and heading for the hills to fight with the self-styled National Liberation Army (NLA).

"I invite my constituents to follow me and go over to the side of those who are fighting for freedom," he said.

"Anyone who wants to see me can find me in the front line," he added.

The DPA, which is in the center-right governing coalition, has called for political dialogue to address the large Albanian minority's grievances that they do not share equal rights with the Slav majority. *AFP*



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Mori's party to hold poll to choose new prime minister

TOKYO—A news report yesterday said that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's ruling party will hold an election to choose his successor on April 22, but a party spokesperson denied a date had been set.

The vote would be for the president of the Liberal Democratic Party. Because the ruling coalition has a majority in both houses of Parliament, the LDP president is expected to then be elected prime minister.

The Asahi newspaper, citing unidentified government and LDP officials, said Parliament would vote for the new prime minister on April 23, and the victor was expected to name his Cabinet the same day.

The Nihon Keizai newspaper also reported yesterday that Mori is expected to announce on April 5 his resignation and his intention not to run for another term. That report also cited unidentified sources.

The party refused to confirm the reports. LDP spokesperson Yoshiaki Tamari yesterday said that the party has not decided when it will elect a new president. He declined further comment.

Mori indicated earlier this month that he would move up elections for ruling party president, which were originally scheduled for September. That was widely viewed as an acknowledgment that he intends to step down.

The party has been under intense pressure to replace Mori ahead of elections this summer for the upper house of Parliament.

Mori's tenure, which began last April after Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi suffered a fatal stroke, has been marred by scandals and frequent verbal gaffes. He has repeatedly come under fire for his remarks evoking the nationalism of Japan's wartime leaders.

His public support ratings have plunged below 10 percent, making him the second-most unpopular prime minister Japan has had since World War II.

Several possible successor candidates have been named by the media, but none has formally expressed a desire to run.

Hiromu Nonaka, a party veteran many see as the strongest contender, has several times denied any interest. Junichiro Koizumi, a former health minister, has also been named as a possible successor to Mori but he has been vague about his intentions. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

No comfort women payment

TOKYO—A Japanese court yesterday overturned the only compensation award ever ordered for former World War II sex slaves. Hiroshima's High Court reversed a landmark April 1998 ruling by a lower court under which the Japanese government was to pay $2,440 each in damages to three South Korean women. They were part of a group of ten plaintiffs who had demanded 564 million yen in damages. The ruling in their favor was the first and so far only compensation award to women who were forced to serve as "comfort women" to Japanese soldiers in front-line brothels. Historians say some 200,000 young women, mostly Korean, but also from Taiwan, China, the Philippines and Indonesia, were forced to serve as sex slaves in Japanese Army brothels during World War II. *AFP*

Bush dumps Kyoto treaty

WASHINGTON—The White House said Wednesday that President George W. Bush has essentially dumped the Kyoto climate change treaty, refusing to seek Senate ratification on grounds it unfairly penalizes the US economy. "The President has been unequivocal: He does not support the Kyoto treaty. It exempts the developing nations around the world, and it is not in the United States' economic best interest," said Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer. That came just days after the European Union reaffirmed its commitment to the 1997 climate change treaty, and a day before Bush meets with German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who last week urged the US leader to respect the agreement. *AFP*

Argentina FMD outbreaks

BUENOS AIRES—Argentina's food safety agency Wednesday reported that the number of sites touched by foot-and-mouth disease throughout the country has risen to 92, while the business sector prepared a retaliatory block on European imports. Buenos Aires province has been hit hardest by the disease, with 71 affected sites reported, according to the National Food Safety and Quality Service. But the illness has also touched the provinces of Santa Fe and Cordoba, each with six affected sites; San Luis, with four sites; and La Pampa, with five. A group of farmers, business owners and labor unions on Wednesday announced that they would be blocking imports from European Union nations starting April 16, in retaliation for the EU's "discriminatory" decision to ban Argentine meat imports because of foot-and-mouth outbreaks. Meat production is a staple of the economy of Argentina, which has roughly 50 million head of cattle and another 10 million sheep. *AFP*

Zapatistas bid for peace

MEXICO CITY—Zapatista rebels took a step toward peace talks Wednesday, offering a first direct contact in years with the Mexican government during a historic Congress appearance marked by the absence of the charismatic leader known as "Subcomandante Marcos." A first meeting was held within hours of the announcement. President Vicente Fox hailed the move as marking the resumption of negotiations. The masked insurgents, who broke off contact with the government when negotiations collapsed in September 1996, said they had named "Commander German" as their point-man. *AFP*

No presidency for Gusmao

DILI, East Timor—After quitting East Timor's interim legislature in a bitter row over the shape of a new Constitution, independence leader Xanana Gusmao yesterday announced he will not compete in the nation's first presidential election. "I will not run for president," said Gusmao, who had been widely expected to assume the position. "I believe that if I could do something for this country and these people it was in a different stage of the process, the liberation struggle," he said. East Timor's temporary UN administrator, Sergio Vieira de Mello, said he had accepted Gusmao's resignation on Wednesday night from the National Council, East Timor's UN-controlled interim legislature, but hoped the former guerrilla leader would change his mind and run for president. *AP*

Putin names ex-KGB agent to head defense

MOSCOW—President Vladimir Putin named a former KGB agent as Russia's first civilian defense minister Wednesday and revamped the rest of the security apparatus in his first major shakeup since taking office a year ago.

Saying he was concerned by the glacial pace of Army reforms and the increasingly volatile situation in separatist Chechnya, Putin also named a civilian and little-known politician to head the interior ministry.

The Russian leader however kept his entire liberal economic team intact and spared embattled Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov.

Kremlin sources warned however that this was only Putin's first crack at re-arranging a government that he primarily inherited from former president Boris Yeltsin.

"These changes are not part of the structural government reforms—those are still to come," a Kremlin administration source told Interfax.

The reshuffle came amid the fiercest spy row between Moscow and Washington since the end of the Cold War and only four days after a wave of bloody bombings in southern Russia that police quickly pinned on Chechen guerrillas.

In a televised announcement from the Kremlin, Putin appeared stone-faced as he announced the nomination of hawkish former Security Council chief Sergei Ivanov as his new defense minister, replacing Marshall Igor Sergeyev. Sergeyev will now serve as a Putin aide on strategic stability.

"This is a thought-through decision, not a spur-of-the moment one, that among other things is linked to the situation in Chechnya," Putin said.

The new defense minister has been "entrusted with leading the path of reforming our lives," said Putin.

Ivanov, 47 and the first civilian to become defense minister, is one of Putin's most trusted allies who worked with the new Russian leader in the administration of Russia's second city, Saint Petersburg.

"Russia needs a modern Army, capable of responding rapidly and efficiently to the threats the country now faces," Ivanov told Russian state television hours after his nomination.

The new defense minister promised to raise soldiers' pay and to provide the Army with better material resources, calling the current resources "catastrophically insufficient."

Ivanov said that he would start reforming the army in line with plans that he formulated as head of the Security Council and that have been approved by Putin.

AFP

TRIVIA Do you know that the Chilean portion of the Atacama Desert of South America is the hottest desert in the world? In fact, the atmosphere there is so unbearably dry that whatever intermittent rain that falls once a year dies before even reaching the white-hot ground. The only respite from heat comes when evening falls, that is, when temperatures drop to almost subzero levels.

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Summer Cooking & Arts Workshop

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Thinking of whipping up some action for your kids? Enroll them in the Junior Culinary Workshop for 6-10 year olds or the Young People's Cook-In Workshop for teens

Looking for a little rest and relaxation your self? Start a hobby and/or a business try the evening class on Flower Arrangement

Check the schedules and see how you can make the most of summer season

Junior Culinary Workshop for boys & girls aged 6-10
Batch 1 April 17 & 18 (T&W) 8 30 a m - 12 nn P1,200
Wrap & Pack Meals Chicken Salad in a Loaf, Surprise Potato Croquettes, Burger Dog Sandwich, Cucumber Bites
Bake & Decorate Edible Picture Frame, Gift Tag Cookies, Summer Hat, Spooky Muffins

Batch 2. April 19 & 20 (Th-Fri) 8 30 a m - 12 nn P1,200
Breakfast Ideas Quick Breads, Egg in a Nest, Sausage Roll, Summer Fruit Cup
Smart Snacks Fried Mini Pizza, Meaty Buns, Nutri Muffins, Fresh Fruit Shake

Young People's Cook-In for teeners
Batch 1 April 21 & 28 (Sat) 9 a m - 2 p m P1,500
Confectionery Showcases Honey Dipped Doughnut, Heavenly Layered Mousse Cake, Soft Bun Delight, Fruit Stuffed Dumplings, Lollipop Candy Making, Chocolate Moulding, Chocolate Boxes in Cream and Flowers, Betty Cracker Rum Balls

Batch 2 May 2,3, & 4 (W-F) 1 30 - 5 p m P1,500
Japanese Cooking Sushi Making, Tamagoyaki, Japanese Clear Soup, Tofu Lychee Dessert, Seafood Shabu-shabu, Tea Jello, Japanese Bento Box, Simple Garnishing

ADULT CLASSES (Day Time Sessions)

Pasta: March 31 (Sat) 9 a m - 1 p m Lasagna, Chicken Canneloni, assorted pasta dishes and sauces (Garlic Fettuccini, Carbonara, Putanesca, Pesto and Negra) Bonus homemade pasta making P600

Baking with Institutional Mixes: March 31 or April 21 (Sat) 1 30-5 p pm Rocky Road Brownies, Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco Banana Loaf, Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Pretzel, Hotdog on Stick, Butterscotch Square, Chocolate Crinkles, Includes lecture on cost profit analysis P400

Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) For Career Cooks April 3-6 or 24-27 (T-F) 9 a m - 1 p m Coverage menu planning, international standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressing, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc applicable to 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation Free lunch. P2,500

Basic Baking: April 4-6 or 25-27 (W-F) 1 30 - 5 p m Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more P2,000

Catering: April 7 (Sat) 9 a m - 3 p m Portion control costing, inventory, table layout, equipment sourcing with actual preparation of popular catering dishes such as Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni, All-Meat Paella, 3 types of fried rice and special desserts P1,500

Maya Quick & Easy Gulaman Delight: April 7 (Sat) 3-5 p m Cathedral Window, Coffee Jelly, Almond Jelly, Fruity Chewy Salad, 24-Hour Salad, Fresh Crab Salad, and Buko Pandan. With food styling presentation P300

Cooking I (Basic Cooking). For Messman, Steward and Beginners April 17-20 (T-F) 1 30 - 5 p m Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta meats and poultry dishes, Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish, Basic garnishing, Table setting and napkin folding; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes P2,200

Basic Cake Decoration: April 21 & 28 (Sat) 9 a m. - 4 p m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals in cake decorating coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing), basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif Free decorating tips. P2,000

ADULT CLASSES - Evening Sessions (5 45 - 8 45 p m.)

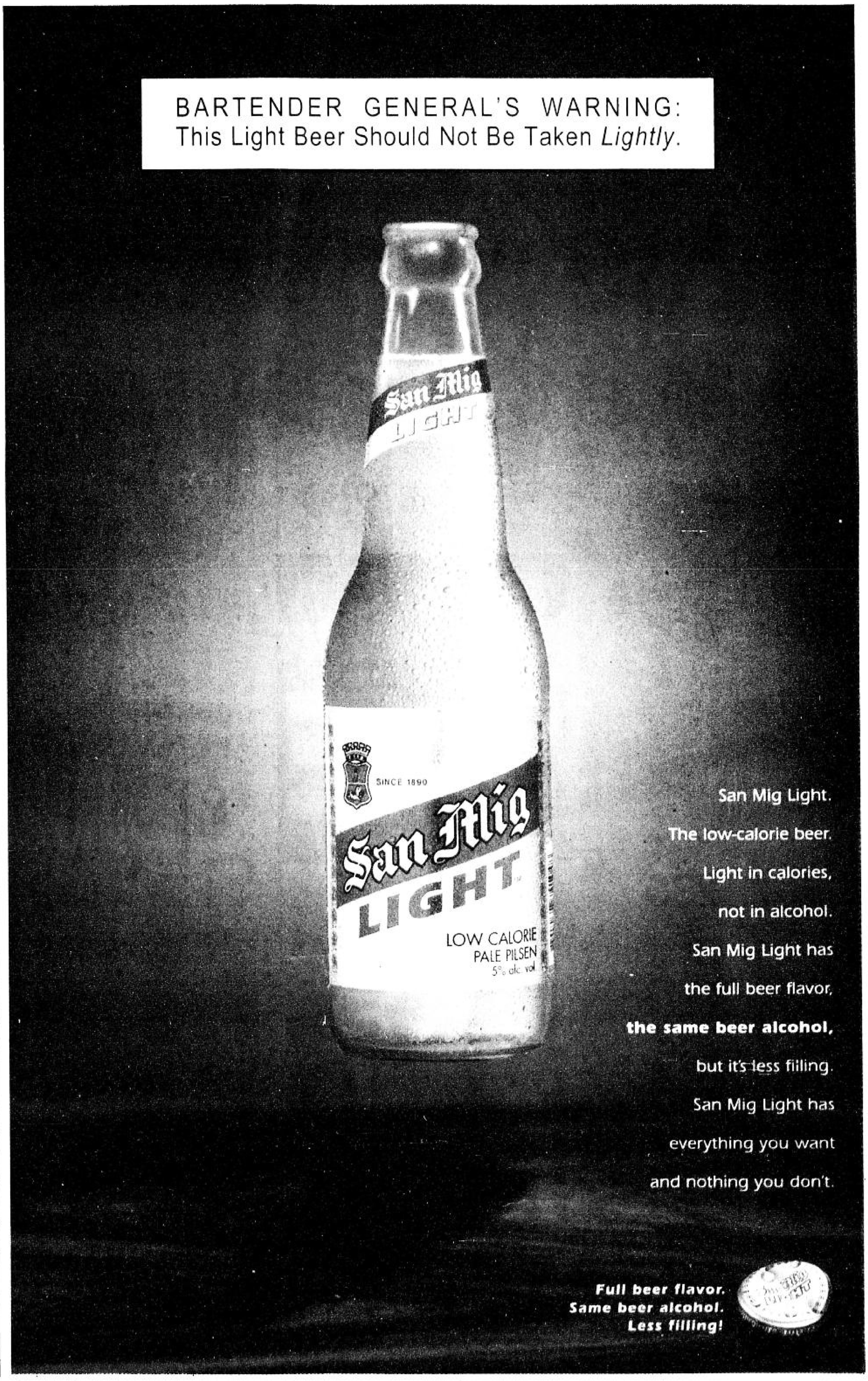
Flower Arrangement (flower shop style) with hands-on April 5 & 6 (Th-Fri) Oriental & Western styles of flower decoration for all occasions using fresh edible and artificial flowers, making of centerpiece & bouquet arrangements for buffet set up (topiaries, avant-grade, cascades, etc.); Tsukubai set up. By Mrs. Juliet Villasor, Ikebana Expert and Landscaper. Free flowers & materials P1,500

Japanese Cooking: April 6 (Fri) Miso Soup, Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamamashi, Basic Sushi presentations P750

Restaurant Operations: April 24, 25, 26 (T-Th) Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, etc. Proven techniques on profitable services operations with free snacks. P2,000

Waitering & Bartending April 24, 25, 26, (T-Th) Coverage Creative techniques for efficient table setting and attractive arrangement, napkin folding and skirting, Suggested selling techniques, meeting, greeting and seating of guests; Use of magic words; Order taking , Table setting standards (American, Russian and French style); Setting up service station and checkpoint; Serving beverage and entree; Bartending basic; Cocktail mixing and garnish; and Personality Enhancement. P2,000 (free snacks)

For reservations and inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1165 or 892-5011 loc. 108, or e-mail us at mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Measles outbreak kills 6 kids in 2 provinces

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A measles outbreak in four Pampanga and Bulacan towns killed six children, five of them Aetas, and downed 91 others since January, the regional Department of Health reported on Monday.

The five Aetas who died from measles, a contagious disease from a virus found in nose and throat discharges, were from Madapdap resettlement site in Mabalacat town, according to Dr. Jessie Fantone of the regional DOH's epidemiological section.

Fantone said the Aetas, all children, did not receive immunization before they transferred to Madapdap where a measles outbreak affecting 28 people was already in progress.

The Aeta families were urged not to immediately return to their village to prevent the spread of the virus among other tribe members.

The other victim, also a child, came from Barangay Sto. Niño in Macabebe town, also in Pampanga, where there was poor immunization coverage in the last five years, a team of doctors said in a report to Dr. Ethelyn Nieto, DOH regional director.

The team traced the low rate to the misconception of mothers on immunization.

Since last week, measles cases have reached 23 in Macabebe, 14 in Arayat, both in Pampanga; and 32 in Marilao, Bulacan. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gloria refuses to dip fingers into local polls

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo distanced herself from local politics amid the heightening of tension between rival camps backing the People Power Coalition (PPC).

"I'm not meddling in local politics," she told reporters at the Iloilo airport Wednesday afternoon before leaving for Mindoro, capping her first official visit to Panay Island after she rose to power following the People Power II uprising in January.

On Sunday, intramurals between rival camps that support the administration nearly caused the cancellation of a political rally for the PPC senatorial candidates here.

The Lakas-NUCD slate led by Iloilo City Rep. Raul Gonzalez jockeyed for the PPC endorsement against allies of Sen. Franklin Drilon led by mayoral candidate and incumbent Vice Mayor Guillermo de la Llana. The intramurals messed up the PPC itinerary, schedules and even billeting.

Ms Macapagal's statement emboldened local government officials here belonging to the President's party, the Lakas-NUCD.

"It's our problem here," said Gonzalez who claimed to be the PPC chair in Iloilo.

He said it is up to the PPC national headquarters to endorse the official administration candidates when the campaign period for local candidates starts on March 30.

He said the PPC is "more of fiction than fact" in local politics because the coalition only holds true at the national level.

Gonzalez also confirmed reports that some local candidates who had declared support to the PPC were campaigning for Pwersa ng Masa candidates Edgardo Angara, Panfilo Lacson and former First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

"The PPC national headquarters are already aware of this but I can't show the evidence as of now," he said.

Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor, also a Lakas-NUCD leader here, said there is no PPC coalition in Iloilo. "It's a fight between (the) Lakas and LDP."

GMA tells DENR: Review dump plan

By Gerry Pagharion
and Hazel Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo Wednesday said she would order the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to review its policy on the proposed dump on Semirara Island, Antique.

This was the President's response to concerns raised by Gideon Javier, a representative of United Antiqueños, a multi-sectoral group in Antique opposing the plan to dump Metro Manila's garbage in Semirara.

During a dialogue with different sectors on Panay Island yesterday, Javier told President Macapagal that the DM Consunji Inc. (DMCI) Holdings and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) had plans to push through with the project despite the preliminary injunction issued by a regional trial court in Antique.

He also told the President that Rogelio Uranza, MMDA assistant general manager for operations, had been telling Antiqueños that the dump on Semirara would be opened soon.

He asked the President to do the following to avert the construction of a dumpsite in Semirara:

- Instruct the DENR to deny any applications filed by the David Consunji Inc. and the MMDA for an environmental compliance certificate allowing the construction of the dump.
- For the DENR and the MMDA to revoke all contracts with the DMCI and other firms parties involved in the project.

Javier told Ms Macapagal that dumping Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara would endanger the marine animals that abound on the island.

The picturesque Semirara is one of the nine islands comprising Caluya town. Its marine ecosystem has been described as one of the richest fishing ground in the Philippines.

The 5,500-hectare island is home to the biggest coal mine in Asia, which is operated by the Semirara Coal Corp., a subsidiary of DMCI Holdings Inc.

The DMCI, together with its partner R-II Builders, were supposed to operate a landfill beside the Panian Mines, an active coal mine operated by the SCC.

In the first week of January, two barges full of Metro Manila's garbage arrived at the Dapdap Pier, Semirara supposedly to be brought to the dump.

But the barges were not able to dock because of a temporary restraining order issued by Judge Sylvia Jurao of the Antique RTC.

The barges were forced to return to Manila after Jurao granted on Jan. 17 a preliminary injunction sought by the United Antiqueños and the Antique provincial government.

The hearing for the permanent injunction is still ongoing.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 33° Lo 21°	**Baguio** HI 24° Lo 15°	**Tuguegarao** HI 28° Lo 22°	**Laoag** HI 29° Lo 23°
Clark Zone HI 32° Lo 23°	**Tagaytay** HI 32° Lo 22°	**Legazpi** HI 30° Lo 26°	**Calapan** HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 31° Lo 24°	**Roxas** HI 31° Lo 25°	**Cebu** HI 31° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 31° Lo 23°	**Zamboanga** HI 30° Lo 25°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 31° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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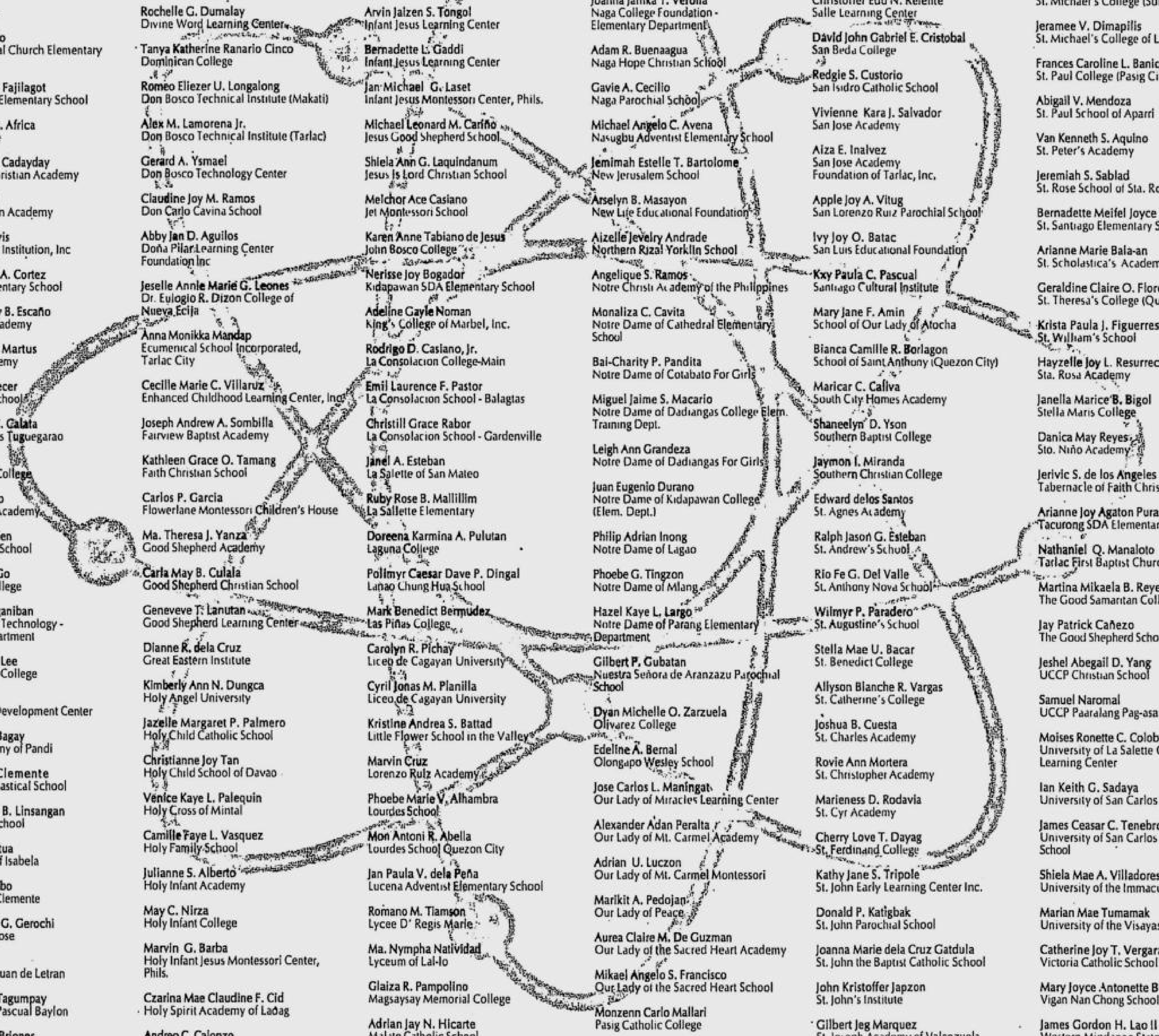

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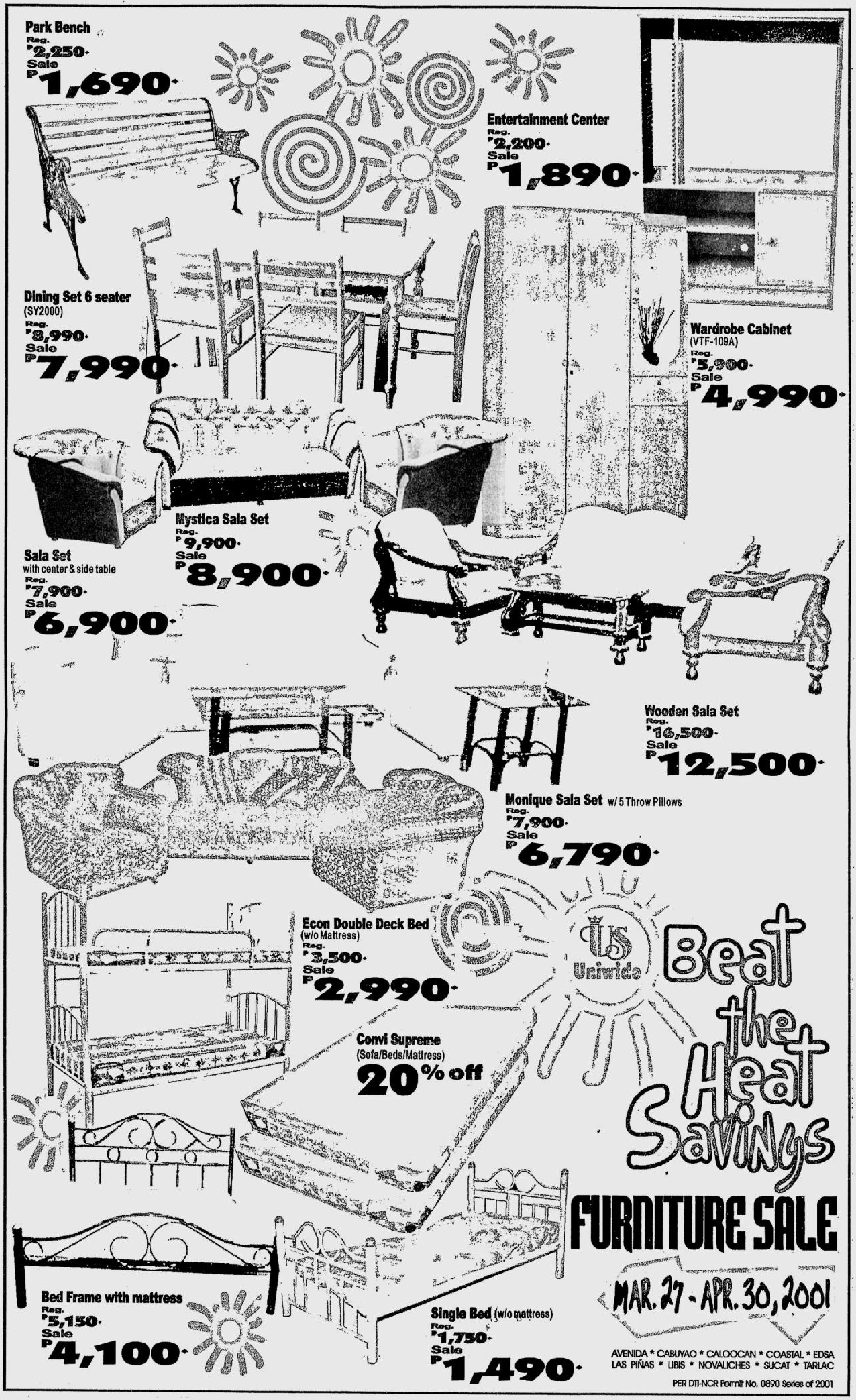

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DILG warns local officials they face ax over 'jueteng'

By Elizabeth Marcelo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Department of Interior and Local Government will strip local government executives of their authority over the PNP and relieve PNP provincial directors and station commanders if they fail to stop jueteng operations.

"The impression that local officials and the police are teaming up to make sure that they gain from jueteng activities in their areas is correct," said Local Government Secretary Jose Lina after a speech at the National Safety Convention of the Safety Organization of the Philippines Inc. at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Lina said the DILG, through its Task Force Jericho, is "consistently pursuing" the campaign against illegal gambling. As a result of this, charges have been filed against alleged gambling lord Bong Pineda.

He said the DILG task force has conducted 25 raids in four provinces in Central Luzon and "all of them turned out to be positive." The task force has swept Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac. Operations are still ongoing in Nueva Ecija.

In cases like this, the DILG chief said he would withdraw the Napolcom deputization of governors and mayors and relieve the PNP provincial and station commanders.

Governors and mayors, as chief executives of their local government units, have been deputized by the Napolcom. This is the basis of their authority over the local PNP in their area.

Lina, who was governor of Laguna before President Macapagal-Arroyo named him local government secretary, said "it is time to lower the boom on governors and mayors."

Under RA 8551, also known as the Local Government Code, local chief executives are responsible for enforcing the campaign against illegal gambling.

"I am warning them not to wait for the task force raid and do their job," Lina said, adding that if Task Force Jericho uncovers jueteng operations in their areas, it could only mean that "they have not been doing their job."

Lina said he has issued orders to relieve some five PNP provincial directors and close to 45 station commanders but the orders are still pending with the Comelec. Comelec clearance is required since the orders were issued during an election period.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Lean crowd attends PPC rally in Antique

By Hazel Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—A crowd of less than 2,000 greeted senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition on Monday at the covered gym of the 7,000-capacity Binirayan Sports Complex here.

Only the left and right bleachers section of the air-conditioned gym near the stage and the basketball court were filled with people.

A handful was seated at the back of the gym that directly faced the candidates on stage.

The PPC's Antique sortie is the only "official" rally on Panay Island where the coalition proclaimed their support for local candidates.

The PPC avoided proclaiming official local candidates in Iloilo and Roxas cities and the provinces of Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan because of squabbling among local candidates who all claim to be PPC allies.

Residents of San Jose said they were informed of the PPC rally by radio. On Sunday, a vehicle with a loud speaker went around town announcing the arrival of the candidates.

Sally Zaldivar-Perez, candidate for governor (PPC-LDP wing) and one of the rally organizers, said they did not bring in too many people to the sports complex because they were afraid that they might run out of food.

"The PPC gave us a quota of 5,000 people but we feared we might run out of food and we have to spend so much. If they wanted 10,000 people, it's possible but expensive," she said.

"We didn't have to gather so many people because they can listen to the candidates' speeches on the radio," she added.

Perez also said the absence of people at the back of the sports center was done on purpose because people who were seated there earlier claimed they could not hear the candidates' speeches.

Sources from the PPC said they had also contributed funds for the Antique rally that included expenses for the packed lunch distributed to the crowd that attended the sortie.

"People really don't care. Otherwise, this place will be filled," said Gideon Javier, nephew of Gov. Exequiel Javier.

Lucy Torres dad won't pay tax to NPAs, lose truck

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—Suspected New People's Army rebels torched a truck owned by the father of actress Lucy Torres on Saturday after he failed to pay revolutionary taxes.

The burned truck was found in a sugarcane plantation in Sitio Sumangga, Barangay Campo Lopez, about four kilometers away from the farmhouse of Manuel Torres.

The suspected rebels did not harm the truck driver, Nicomedes Cantoy, 31, as they poured gasoline on the truck, which was worth about P350,000.

SPO4 Rudy Sano, of the Ormoc police, said the rebels then told Cantoy to leave the area after setting the truck on fire.

Sano said the NPA's Reynaldo Jorial Command had sent a letter to the Torres family in December, demanding P54,000 in annual revolutionary taxes.

Cely Pedaurita, administrator of the Torres' sugar plantation here, received the letter but she did not give it to Mr. Torres because similar letters in the past were just ignored by the family.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Mr. Torres in their residence on Real Street in the city but was told by a housemaid that he was in Manila.

Mr. Torres, father-in-law of actor Richard Gomez, owns a 300-hectare sugar plantation and a lotto outlet in Ormoc City.

At about 6 a.m. of March 24, the suspects led by a certain Ka Mario went to the farmhouse of the Torreses where they kept their trucks in Sitio Sumangga, Barangay Campo Lopez.

They then asked Cantoy to bring them to the barangay proper because they had to fetch a sick relative. The driver consented.

They were already about four kilometers away from the farmhouse when the suspects suddenly pulled out M203 grenade launchers and M-16 Armalite rifles and told him to stop at the vast sugarcane plantation.

Cantoy and the suspects went down from the truck. The suspected rebels then poured gasoline on the truck and lighted it.

Ex-mayor denies role in murders

JAEN, Nueva Ecija—Former Mayor Antonio Prospero Esquivel, a Lakas-NUCD mayoral candidate here, strongly denied allegations that he was involved in eight killings in this town.

He said the claims were part of a "demolition job" by his political enemies to derail his campaign to regain the post he held for two consecutive terms.

"They are all lies," Esquivel said in response to a news release describing him as a murder suspect being coddled and supported by the administration party.

The news release, a copy of which was sent to the INQUIRER, quoted incumbent Mayor Cesar Eduardo as asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to ask Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to order the filing of murder charges against Esquivel.

"(Esquivel) has been tagged as the mastermind in the liquidation of at least eight people during his reign as mayor from 1992 to 1998," the news release said.

Eduardo is running for reelection against Esquivel and two other candidates.

The news release also indicated that Esquivel had been tagged by alleged "self-confessed killers" as the one who hired them to kill former barangay captain Ricardo Velarde in 1994.

It also alleged that one of the self-confessed killers said Esquivel had given them P50,000 for the hit job on Velarde, who would have been his chief rival for the mayoral post in 1995.

"I had nothing to do with the killing of Velarde," he said. "The court already excluded my name from the charge sheet as the allegations of those charged were found untrue."

Esquivel's claim is supported by the decision of a regional trial court in Gapan town that excluded his name from the charges.

He said reports saying that he has pending cases at the Department of Justice are not true. "I also have nothing to do with the other killings in the town. If authorities have any evidence against me, they could have easily pinned me down as I was out of position for the last three years," he said.

Esquivel showed a copy of a certification or clearance from the counter intelligence and security division of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame, Quezon City saying he has no "derogatory record" with the police. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

₱50M in smuggled rice seized

DIGOS CITY—Smugglers have been using the sleepy seaport of Malalag town. This was confirmed following the seizure of P50 million worth of smuggled rice by agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) Southern Command on Sunday.

Last year, both local government and police officials were quick to deny reports that Indonesian goods in the province and in Davao and General Santos cities passed through the port.

Chief Insp. Ronald de la Rosa said the 48,000 sacks of smuggled rice were about to be unloaded from the MV Anton Rafael and MV Queen Else when PAOCTF operatives came in.

De la Rosa said personnel manning the cargo vessels failed to present proper documents that could support the importation.

The smuggled goods are believed to have come from Thailand.

Aside from rice, PAOCTF agents are also validating reports that the Malalag port is being used to bring in sugar and other items.

The ships, along with the seized contraband, were brought to the Bureau of Customs wharf in Davao City for inventory.

Charges are also being prepared against the owner of the shipment, who has not been identified as of late yesterday afternoon.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Chavit endorses lawyer's poll bid

BAGUIO CITY—Citing "equity of the impeachment," Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson declared lawyer Pablito Sanidad, his counsel during the impeachment trial against former President Joseph Estrada, as the official administration candidate for the city's lone congressional district.

Sanidad faces outgoing Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Lakas Cordillera chair.

Singson said he hopes his endorsement of Sanidad's bid will end the two-month-old fight on who gets the official endorsement of Lakas-NUCD in Baguio.

Earlier, several disgruntled candidates in Northern Luzon who had been feuding over Lakas endorsements had been blaming Singson for meddling in the party's affairs.

"It is no longer the equity of the incumbent but the equity of the impeachment," Singson said here Sunday.

He found an ally in former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. who confirmed in Dagupan City that Singson indeed has a hand in the selection of Lakas-NUCD-UMDP candidates in Northern Luzon, citing his crucial role in Estrada's ouster.

"We have to put utmost weight on the role of Singson in the ouster of the former president which paved the way for the People Power II. Secondly, he knows Ilocano politics very well," said De Venecia, Lakas national chair.

"It is lamentable that during Edsa II, no one in the administration raised their voices," Singson said. ***Frank Cimatu and Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

A Summer of Food and Arts at The Maya Kitchen

It's summertime and everyone suddenly has loads of free time. Kids will be all over the house, while parents get time-outs from preparing *baons*.

Maya Kitchen's evening course on Flower Arrangement.

Instead of fully dedicating this season to endless excursions and trips to the mall, why not take up something new and rewarding? The Maya Kitchen offers different yet exciting courses that cater to every member of the family.

Creative moms will surely delight in Maya Kitchen's evening classes. The **Flower Arrangement** class is set on **April 5 and 6 from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m.** where they will learn Oriental and Western styles of flower decoration for all occasions using fresh, edible and artificial flowers. Lessons will include making of centerpiece and bouquet arrangements for buffet set-ups like topiaries, avant-garde, cascades and many more. The class will be taught by Ikebana expert and landscaper Juliet Villasor.

Cool siblings will enjoy taking up the **Japanese Cooking** course to be held on **April 6 from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m.** Miso Soup, Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi and Sushi are some of the classic Japanese meals that they can learn to prepare.

For fun-crazy *kuyas* who want to treat their family to fine dining ambience at home, they can take the **Waitering and Bartending** workshop to be held on **April 24 to 26 from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m.** The course covers creative techniques for efficient table setting and attractive arrangement, napkin folding and skirting; techniques on selling, meeting, greeting and seating of guests; order taking, and proper set-up of service station and checkpoints. It will also include proper serving of beverage and entrée, bartending basics, cocktail mixing and garnishing.

For dads with entrepreneurial inclinations, the **Restaurant Operations** workshop is the perfect course to take. It is scheduled on **April 24 to 26 from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m.** Know more about kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory and many more.

For reservations and inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen on the 8th Floor, Liberty Building, 835 Pasay Road, Makati or call 892-5011 to 20, 892-1185 locals 108 or 109.

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Rights body doubts NPA victims may get justice

(From page A1)

Many of the victims were reportedly tortured before they were executed by the NPA. The CPP and the NPA later acknowledged the sheer folly of the purge, saying most if not all of the victims were innocent.

Chief Supt. Ruben Cabagnot, regional police chief, said he would send a team of forensic experts to Sitio Tawili in Barangay Kauyonan to look for other victims who might still be buried at the quarry site.

"If we can establish the identities of the perpetrators, we will file appropriate charges against them. We can't just leave this crime unpunished," Cabagnot told the INQUIRER.

Dalmacio Duenas, chief of a nearby village in Nangkaon, earlier said at least 100 more bodies still lay buried in a pit at the quarry site, referred to locally as "kalaberahan" or field of skeletons.

Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, newly installed chief of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in this city, said he had ordered his men to continue digging for the remains of the other victims.

Soldiers have pulled out of the quarry site, fearing flash floods due to the heavy rains.

"We will continue searching until we find most of them," said Dagudag who replaced Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu as division commander. Cimatu has been promoted Armed Forces deputy chief of staff.

CPP side

In a statement signed by a certain Husman for the CPP Mindanao Commission and published on the Liberation online webpage, the CPP admitted that it committed "a grave error and huge folly" when it conducted the purge throughout the country.

The CPP said several of its leaders had been made to account for the killings. Many of them had left the party and worked under the previous administration of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The military estimated that 4,000 to 6,000 communist cadres died during the period.

But the leftist party-list group, Bayan Muna, branded the discovery of the mass graves as "the same old rotten dish offered by the military" to undermine the bargaining position of the communist-led National Democratic Front in the upcoming peace talks.

"The hawks in the AFP would do anything to imperil the peace talks and prevent the Left from gaining ground in the battle over public opinion," the group said in a statement.

"Previous peace negotiations have been spoiled by hawkish interventionists and militarist elements extremely opposed to any politically negotiated solution that would end the armed conflict," the group said.

Army officer

In Davao City, the former chief intelligence officer of the 4th Infantry Division also expressed apprehension that some military quarters could be out to sabotage the government's peace talks with the NDF.

"There may be some (military) elements who are not in favor of the peace talks and that's why they're reviving this old issue against the communist rebels," said Col. Roland Rodriguez, deputy commander of the Army's 701st Brigade in Compostela Valley. He served as intelligence chief of the 4th ID from 1987 to 1990.

Rodriguez said the military wanted the peace talks to succeed, adding the Macapagal administration was on the right track in talking peace with the NDF.

He said the military had long played up the NPA mass graves as part of psy-war operations against the rebels.

He said the campaign was so effective that it triggered a series of surrenders in the NPA ranks.

Rodriguez said even the NPA had acknowledged the mass killings as one of the communist movement's grave errors.

"It (Kampanyang Ahos) was the main cause of the downfall of the NPA, particularly in Northern Mindanao," he said.

Rodriguez said hundreds of bodies had been exhumed in other areas of Mindanao, particularly Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte.

He said several bodies were also unearthed during the 1980s in the hinterlands of Claveria town, also in Misamis Oriental and Gingoog City.

Rodriguez said a certain Marilou Pocray, a graduate of Xavier University, spearheaded the bloody purge in Misamis Oriental.

The head of the CPP provincial committee, however, has not been heard from since, he said.

NPA anniversary

The NPA marked its 32nd founding anniversary Thursday with a vow to step up offensives against the government.

Continuing the armed rebellion was necessary to give guerrillas a bargaining edge in the scheduled talks, communist leader Armando Liwanag said in a statement.

The NPA is the 11,000-strong guerrilla unit of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Military officials say Liwanag is an alias of Netherlands-based CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison.

Guerrillas must "seize every moment to strengthen the New People's Army and advance the people's war," Liwanag said.

"We fight in the battlefield while our negotiators talk across the table," he said. "Otherwise, the enemy will find no need for peace negotiations if the revolutionary armed struggle weakens or ceases."

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier this week approved a recommendation by her security advisers to reopen peace negotiations with the rebels in a Scandinavian country on April 27.

Both the government and the NDF have also agreed to a truce covering several provinces in Southern Luzon to pave the way for the safe release of Army Maj. Noel Buan, an NPA captive for the past two year".

His scheduled release in early April ahead of the talks i. seen as a confidence-building measure by the rebels.

Liwanag, however, instructed the NPA "to carry out tactical offensives of varying sizes in order to increase our armed strength."

Commando units will also be deployed in cities and urban centers to "punish the worst of plunderers and human rights violators and traitors who have blood debts."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said troops had been placed on heightened alert to thwart any NPA attack, noting that the communists historically marked their anniversary with offensives.

"But we are certain that because of the efforts of the government to reconstruct the peace process, they may be calmed," Reyes said over radio station dzRH. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and AFP***

Palace seeks ouster of Erap kin in SMC

(From page A1)

Sources quoted Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz saying that De Guzman, movie producer Espiridion Laxa and three other appointees of Estrada to the SMC board continue to hang on despite having been asked several times by the Macapagal administration to step down.

But De Guzman's group had reportedly countered that they are agents of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

The PCGG administration had also repeatedly asked the Estrada appointees to give up their seats in the board of the country's biggest food and beverage conglomerate.

A source said that the Palace is left with no choice but to resort to a court order.

Recover eight seats

The three-month old Macapagal government is working to regain eight of the 15 board seats in San Miguel. With a majority seat in San Miguel board, the government could oust its chair, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, one of the known supporters of Estrada.

The source said PCGG's 27-percent sequestered stake in San Miguel is already equivalent to five board seats. Pension funds, Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) hold stakes that could elect two-and-a-half board seats.

Inquirer sources said SSS and GSIS would convince members like the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS) to vote the shares with the government.

AFP-RSBS had borrowed funds from GSIS to buy SMC shares.

Replacements

Cruz had earlier named the replacements of Cojuangco and the Estrada appointees. They are Renato Valencia, former SSS president; banker Octavio V. Espiritu who used to head Far East Bank; Leo Alvez, former Presidential Security Group commander; Hector Hofillena and Francis Fuentebella.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo earlier said the first step the government must take in ousting Cojuangco would be to rescind Executive Orders 312 and 313 that would have declared the coco levy funds private. Romulo said that a trust fund would be created to hold the proceeds from the sale of the 27-percent San Miguel stake.

"We have to solidify our position that the coco levy funds are public funds and the beneficiaries are the small coconut farmers," said the finance secretary.

Next step

Another step would be to take back the voting rights over the 27 percent from Cojuangco, replace five other government directors in the food and beverage firm, and also change all 15 directors of the board of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

Cojuangco regained the SMC chairmanship a few days after Estrada came into power in July 1998. Cojuangco was one of the biggest campaign contributors to the presidential campaign of Estrada.

PCGG, created by former President Aquino to run after cronies of the late dictator Marcos, assigned the voting rights to Cojuangco with the imprimatur of Estrada.

The anti-graft court had sequestered during the time of former President Corazon Aquino about 47 percent of San Miguel on charges that these were ill-gotten and had been bought using P9.6 billion in coconut levy funds collected by Marcos associate Cojuangco from coconut farmers.

Tañada sees dream come true

(From page A1)

was just dreaming," enthused Tañada, one of the Magnificent 7 senators who voted against the extension of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement in 1991.

Tañada relished being escorted by police as he entered the economic hub for the campaign rally of the administration People Power Coalition where he is one of the 13 senatorial candidates. It was his first since the Americans left.

"It was a pleasant surprise. I never expected to be accorded such a treatment," Tañada said.

Because of his fierce opposition against the US military bases, Tañada had never come to this sprawling complex when it was still occupied by the Americans.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said Tañada would have been barred from entering Subic if the Americans were still here.

On his triumphant return, Tañada liked what he saw. He said the situation of the Subic Freeport now has vindicated him and the other senators versus those who lobbied to retain the US military bases.

He said he received a lot of pressure before the Senate voted on the treaty, including from then President Aquino, the Catholic hierarchy and businessmen who warned him that foreign investors would go away, the country would be invaded by communists and he would never win in an election again.

"None of that happened. What is important is that US meddling in our government is gone. While the bases were there, the Americans will continue to interfere in our affairs," Tañada said.

"Then there were the social costs—the big danger of the nuclear arms, the danger that we would be harmed when the US engaged in a war with other countries," he said.

Tañada said Subic is now identified as one of the big contributions to the economic development of the country.

"I am so happy that we were able to generate more jobs than the Americans, that we are reaping a lot of benefits from here," Tañada said.

Gordon-Payumo rivalry

Tañada brushed aside the continuing rivalry between Richard Gordon and his successor, Felicito Payumo.

While it was the Gordons who organized the PPC rally in Olongapo, Payumo arrived at the hotel where the PPC candidates held their press conference.

Tañada said Olongapo Mayor Kate Gordon told the crowd at the PPC rally to "forget the past and build for the future of our country."

Payumo said he is staying on as SBMA chair, despite previous reports that the President is going to replace him. The SBMA chair has a fixed term of six years.

"I decided to stay on because the fact that I did not file my certificate of candidacy (for Congress) last Feb. 28, I already closed other options," Payumo said.

Payumo said there were "mixed signals" from Malacañang earlier but he later heard that "they are going to respect the fixed term" of the SBMA chief

Payumo also defended himself against the Gordon camp, saying it was not he who was responsible for the occasional tension in the complex and should not be sacked for it.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 30, 2001
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Wis 2:1, 12-22**
Gospel: **Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30**

Jesus went around Galilee; he would not go about in Judea because the Jews wanted to kill him. Now the Jewish feast of the Tents was at hand.

But after his brothers had gone to the festival, he also went up, not publicly but in secret.

Some of the people of Jerusalem said, "Is this not the man they want to kill? And here he is speaking freely, and they don't say a word to him? Can it be that the rulers know that this is really the Christ? Yet we know where this man comes from; but when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."

So Jesus announced in a loud voice in the Temple court where he was teaching, "You say that you know me and know where I come from! I have not come of myself; I was sent by the One who is true, and you don't know him. I know him for I come from him and he sent me."

They would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him because his time had not yet come.

Commentary

The tension is further heightened in today's Gospel narrative. It would be good to read the whole pericope (vv. 1-18, 25-36). Jesus, like us, had to discern his actions. Far from seeking to provoke conflicts, he came out only at given moments when the signs were clear. After all, he was not acting on his own. He was sent by the One who is true. Sensitive to God's intimations in time, Jesus spoke openly and with authority, with a certainty of God's unction. Do you ever withdraw in silence and consult God not only on what to do but also when and how to do it, so that it is God's glory that is manifested no matter whatever be the outcome?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Mere relationship of witness to victim does not impair credibility—The assessment of credibility of witnesses made by the trial court is generally accorded great weight and respect in view of its unique opportunity to observe the demeanor of the witnesses during their testimonies. In the absence of any matters of substance, which may have been overlooked by the trial court, we find no cogent reason to overturn the findings of facts of the trial court. The mere fact that the sole eyewitness presented in court is the brother-in-law of the victim does not affect his credibility. Mere relationship of a witness to the victim, whether by consanguinity or affinity, does not necessarily impair his credibility as a witness or does it impair his positive and clear testimony and render it unworthy. On the contrary, relationship with a victim would deter a witness from indiscriminately implicating anybody to the crime. His nature and usual interest would be to identify the malefactor and secure his conviction to obtain true justice for the death of a relative. More importantly, the eyewitness account as to the manner of the attack and the location of the wounds is corroborated by the post-mortem examination. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, *En Banc*, People v. Hilot, G.R. No. 129532, October 5, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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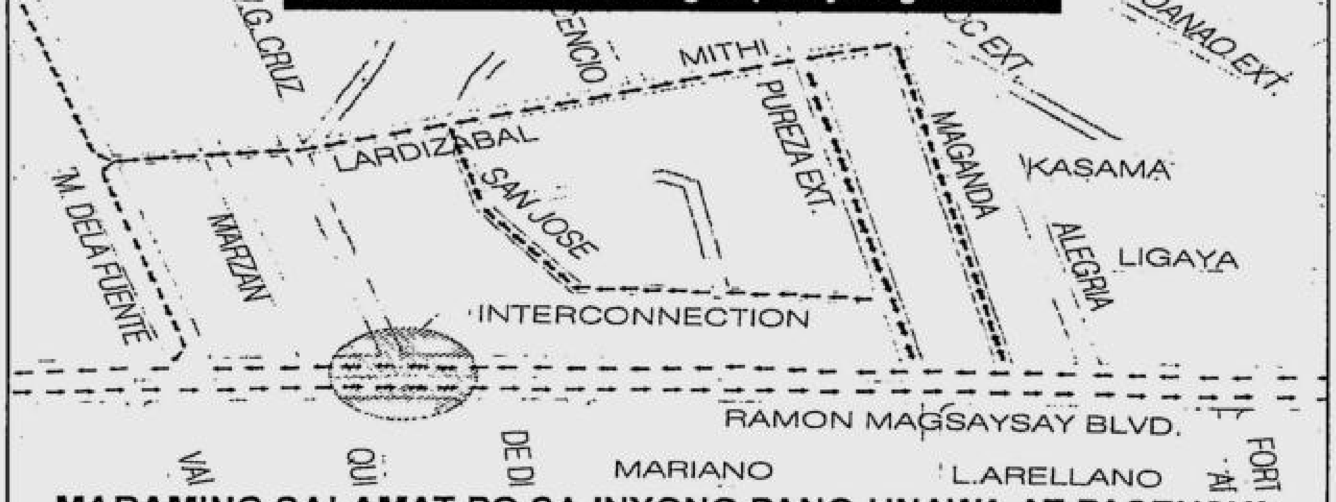
As part of the water supply improvement project of its concession area, ***Maynilad Water Services, Inc.*** in cooperation with the ***Manila City Government***, the ***Metro Manila Development Authority*** and the ***Department of Public Works and Highways***, will undertake a test pitting/soil exploratory excavation for the pipe laying of a 2,000mm waterline beginning ***Saturday, March 31, 2001*** up to around ***May 27, 2001***. The water agency, through its contractor Q.K. Calderon Const Co., Inc. (QKCCCI), will undertake the test pitting/soil exploratory excavation across Magsaysay Blvd. adjacent to V.G Cruz St. in Manila.

The project has been coordinated with, and proper clearances have been secured from the affected Barangays, the Office of the City Engineer and the Office of the Mayor of Manila, the MMDA, DPWH and DENR. Motorists and affected residents are advised to take alternative routes to avoid the expected heavy traffic along the affected areas. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience arising from the test pitting/soil exploratory excavation work and ask for the public's understanding and cooperation.

For the public's reference, here is the location of the work, and the information on the contractor involved and the project:***Contractor:*** Q.K. Calderon Const. Co., Inc. (QKCCCI) ***Address*** : 827 EDSA, Quezon City ***Tel. No.*** : 924-23-38 / 0919-610-7663 ***Project Contract Reference No.*** : LMAQ-3E

Maynilad, in coordination with the MMDA and the Western District Traffic Enforcement Office, will implement the following traffic management scheme to ease the flow of traffic in the affected areas. One (1) Lane at a time of Magsaysay Blvd. as shown below will be closed to traffic from March 31, 2001 to around May. 27, 2001.

Please refer to the following map for your guidance:



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GMA to give Abubakar to Muslims

(From page A1)

yesterday evening.

She emphasized that the MILF, in negotiations with the government in Kuala Lumpur, "never asked for the return of the camps."

At the same time, Ms Macapagal was careful not to alienate the military, saying: "You must believe me when I say that we will not do anything to waste the sacrifices of these brave men and women, these brave soldiers.

A secret come-on that paved the way for the revival of peace talks between the government and the MILF was the more than $100 million in development aid from oil-rich Muslim countries, according to a source privy to last week's meeting between the two parties in Kuala Lumpur.

Another come-on was Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' assurance that the Armed Forces of the Philippines would not be demoralized by government plans to allow MILF members and their families to return to their fallen camps.

"Our soldiers are aware that their job is to implement policy. They do not make policies," Reyes yesterday said of President Macapagal's decision to open the "Muslim communities" to development.

Reyes said political solutions like peace talks were sometimes necessary to resolve a conflict.

"Our end product here is peace. That is what our soldiers are fighting for. We don't fight wars to continue wars. We fight our wars so that there will be peace," the defense secretary said.

The source, who asked not to be named, said the foreign aid prompted the government and the MILF to agree to the holding of talks in a "neutral ground" with the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) acting as host.

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu said the government of Saudi Arabia had already approved the release of $100 million for Mindanao infrastructure projects and rehabilitation of the MILF's Camp Abubakar.

Mangudadatu said the amount would be released through the office of Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

Mangudadatu was also in Kuala Lumpur during the signing of the agreement between presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita and MILF political vice chair Ghazali Jaafar on March 24.

The accord called for the holding of talks between the government and the MILF.

Mangudadatu said the fund was part of the development package that Muslim countries had offered to restore peace in Mindanao.

The previous administrations were against holding the talks outside the Philippines and allowing foreign governments to mediate in the negotiations.

Mangudadatu said he was told that Malaysia was likely to host the resumption of talks stalled by ousted President Joseph Estrada's all-out war against the MILF.

Ms Macapagal has reversed Estrada's policy toward the MILF.

On Wednesday, Ms Macapagal said families of MILF members would be allowed to return to former MILF camps.

A provision in the Kuala Lumpur accord says that Abubakar and Rajah Muda are not military camps but sites of Muslim communities that must be accorded respect.

$20 million for Abubakar

Datumanong confirmed that 20 percent of the aid from Saudi Arabia would be used for the rehabilitation of Moro communities in Camp Abubakar.

He said $80 million would be for infrastructure projects in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other Mindanao provinces.

In Manila, Ermita assured that the returning MILF men would not be allowed to carry firearms in Camp Abubakar, which comprises six towns.

Ermita said the returning MILF members would not be allowed to rebuild their bombed-out military quarters and fortifications.

The officers and men of the MILF will be allowed to return to their areas to rebuild their individual houses with the help of the government, according to Ermita.

They will have to leave their firearms outside the camps, which will continue to be under military control.

Ermita said the banning of firearms was aimed at preventing firefight between soldiers and MILF members.

"For a ceasefire to happen, they should not move around with their firearms," he said.

Ermita also said that the military and the MILF would be advised to respect each other's area of interest, and not unnecessarily venture into these areas.

Ermita stressed that the government was negotiating from a position of strength, saying that it had already shown its might during the war with the MILF last year.

"We want to show that the AFP can always assert territorial integrity anytime," he said.

Mindanao railway

Mangudadatu also disclosed that his province had signed a memorandum of agreement with a Malaysian government-controlled consortium for the construction of a $3.7-billion Mindanao Railway Project on a build-operate-transfer scheme.

He said the government of the State City of Kuwait would also fund, through the Department of Public Works and Highways, the 168-km, Isulan-Kulaman-Lebak road. The project will cost P1.8 billion.

Muslim member states of the Organization of Petroléum Exporting Countries (Opec) had financed the Cotabato-General Santos Highway when Datumanong was chair of the defunct Region 12 Commission in 1975, according to Mangudadatu.

Alvarez named DENR chief after getting support of NGOs

(From page A1)]

Alvarez, a former senator and anti-Marcos activist, was one of the legislators who filed a resolution in the House of Representatives that led to the impeachment of Ms Macapagal's predecessor, Joseph Estrada, on allegations of massive corruption.

The President said that she had been warned that the delay in naming an environment secretary could mean that the "DENR is not important" to her administration.

"So, the time is right," she said in announcing the appointment of Alvarez.

As for Tiglao, she said she was not ready to announce whether she had already appointed him as Palace spokesman.

"I'm not yet ready to confirm that," she said.

Asked whether she was considering appointing him, she replied: "I'm considering him."

"I will confirm it, maybe in three weeks' time," she said.

Palace sources said Tiglao, who had already accepted the post, had asked that he be given until the second week of April to assume his post.

Dacer family hopes 'this is not yet it'

(From page A1)]

are in the United States.

"Sabina is so fragile now. She's been resting in bed these past few days and had not eaten since I relayed the news this morning. Karina suffered muscle spasms when I talked to her on the phone," Reyes said in a phone interview.

Sabina had turned off her cellular phone as of last night.

The two suspects in yesterday's press conference said Dacer and his driver were killed and their bodies burned "by a creek" in Indang, Cavite.

For the Dacers, who in their desperation have sought the help of psychics to find their missing father, that detail struck an eerie note.

"I've spoken to some psychics and they gave almost the same answers as to his location: that he is 'by the water'," Reyes said.

He said that although family members welcomed the two suspects' arrest as a "good breakthrough," they still hoped that bones and teeth recovered by the National Bureau of Investigation from the scene of the alleged crime would turn out to not belong to Dacer and Corbito.

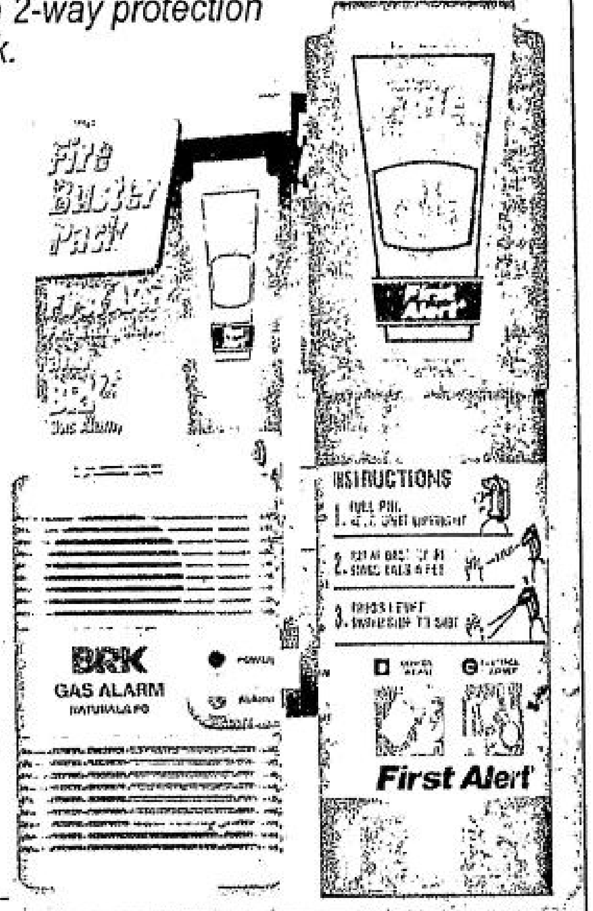
He said the four-month-old investigation could be expected to pick up speed following the arrests, "but the family would like to make further verification. The witnesses should be further scrutinized."

"There are still so many questions to be asked. Who was the mastermind? What could be the reason?" he said.

"We feel that this is a good breakthrough but this is just a first step."

He said the family would await the results of a forensic examination of the bones and dentures. The Dacers have furnished the NBI with their father's dental records.

The family released a brief statement yesterday appealing to authorities to identify the mastermind behind Dacer's disappearance.



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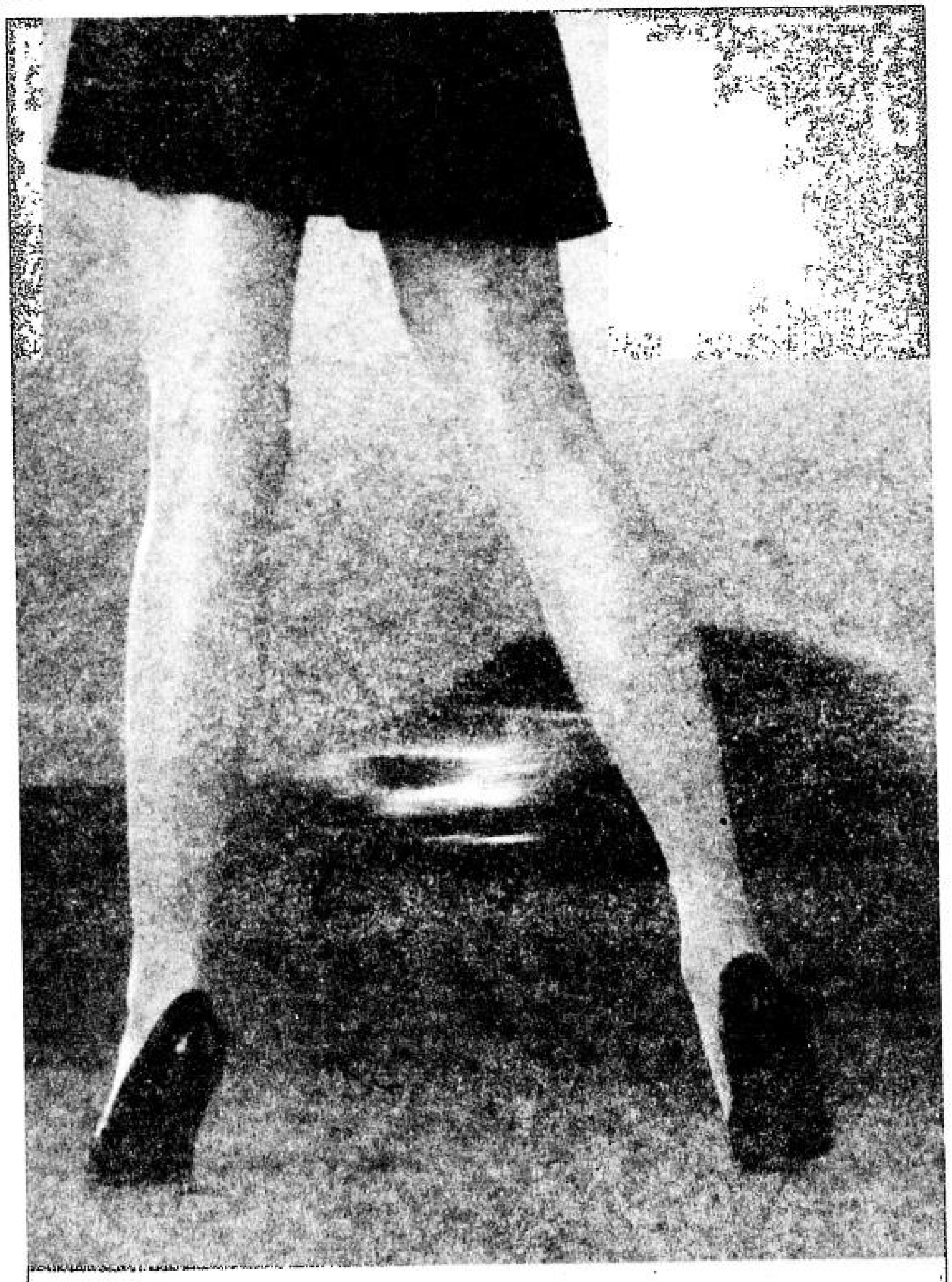

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2 farmers say Dacer was strangled, burned

ERIK ARAZAZ

ALLEGED witnesses to the Dacer murder, Alex Diloy and Jimmy Lopez, are presented to the media by Justice Secretary Perez and NBI Director Wycoco.

(From page A1)

file kidnapping charges against one officer, Marino Soberano, who is at large.

The three other officers who allegedly participated in the kidnapping and murders are SPO3 Mauro Torres, SPO2 Jose Escalante and SPO1 Crisostomo Purificacion.

Diloy said he witnessed Lopez's brother, William, SPO3 Mauro Torres and a certain Diego (also reported as "Digo"), whom he identified as an incumbent councilor in Indang, strangle Dacer and Corbito.

Lopez said a group led by SPO4 Soberano arrived at his home in Barangay Buen Alejos I, Indang, on the afternoon of Nov. 24, and asked him where they could hold the two victims for safekeeping.

Hog-tied

Dacer and Corbito were already hog-tied and their eyes and mouths covered with masking tape when they were brought to Lopez's house, according to Wycoco.

Lopez recalled that the party arrived in two vehicles. Dacer and Corbito were still alive and were inside a white Toyota Lite Ace, he said.

Soberano and the two other PAOCTF agents, Escalante and Purificacion, were aboard another vehicle, he said.

From Lopez's narration, it was not clear which car carried SPO3 Torres.

"When they arrived, they were looking for a place to hide the two men they brought with them. I said I would find a place, so I brought the group to the garage of my brother, William," Lopez said in Filipino.

Lopez said the group waited until it was dark. Around 8 p.m., the party left for a nearby creek, bringing the two victims along, he said. He told reporters he stayed behind because he has trouble walking long distances.

At this point, Diloy took up the narration.

Face down

Upon reaching the creek, Diloy said, he was ordered to gather firewood for the pyre.

Dacer and Corbito were made to lie face down, he said. Three men used the electrical cord to strangle them to death, he told the news conference.

Asked by reporters to identify the killers, Diloy replied, "Mauro Torres, William and Diego."

The murderers placed the bodies on top of the pyre of wood and tires, doused them with gasoline and set them on fire, he narrated.

They let the corpses burn for about half an hour, he said. When it was over, he walked toward nearby Binakayan town, leaving the others behind.

When asked about Dacer's shoes, Diloy said Diego gave him the pair after the bodies were burned.

"Diego just threw them toward me. I didn't even know whose shoes they were" at the time, Diloy said, showing the pair to reporters.

Wycoco noted that the pair used to be white, Dacer's favorite color, and that Diloy had dyed them brown.

The NBI chief said that while the suspect was still allowed to wear the shoes, they could be used as evidence.

Ping: They were tortured

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the two farmers might be placed under a witness protection program. He expressed hope that they might eventually lead to the mastermind behind the killings

The PAOCTF at the time of the abduction was directly under then Philippine National Police chief "Ping" Lacson, who yesterday said that he had "received reports that the farmers were tortured" into confessing.

Asked for more details, he said that his camp was still verifying the reports.

He denied that he had ever been involved in any illegal abduction.

The opposition senatorial candidate belittled the new developments, saying the NBI had been promising major breakthroughs in the case for weeks.

Lacson also said that the NBI appeared bent on proving its theory that the PAOCTF was behind Dacer's disappearance.

'Final order'

But the NBI National Capital Region chief, Samuel Ong, said the two farmers claimed that Viña had called up the four PAOCTF agents right after the abduction.

"At about 3 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 24, Viña was talking to the four PAOCTF agents who were guarding Dacer and his driver," Ong quoted the farmers as saying.

"The two suspects said the four PAOCTF agents could not execute Dacer and his driver without Viña's final order," Ong added.

The motive for the killing was not given but former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte has said that Dacer was living in fear of then President Joseph Estrada because the latter had blamed him for a "demolition job."

Perez stressed that "the case is not closed. This is just a breakthrough because we still don't know why this was done and who ordered them to do this," Parez said.

Wycoco said that while Soberano's group could be responsible for killing Dacer and his driver, "leads point to other groups" who put Dacer under surveillance, who carried out the actual abduction, and who masterminded the abduction and murder.

"Only Soberano was the common denominator in the sense that he was present in the raid (near Dacer's house), the abduction and the killing," Wycoco told reporters.

Gun, drugs

During the raid on the farmers' houses, agents seized a .45-cal. pistol from Lopez. When asked about the gun, the suspect presented a permit purportedly signed by Viña.

Ong said his men also recovered three transparent plastic sachets containing the drug "shabu."

Wycoco said the NBI obtained a copy of a memorandum receipt signed by Viña, which listed Lopez, who is not a policeman, as an SPO2.

Wycoco said the NBI learned that Soberano and Viña, both Caviteños, were the officers who recruited Lopez as a civilian agent of the task force.

Soberano, who was the first policeman to be charged in the Dacer case before the Department of Justice, is a common friend of the Lopez brothers.

Lopez said he had known Soberano for a long time and had been introduced to him by a certain Zaldy Tongos, another task force "asset."

While Viña has surfaced as the highest ranking official involved, it is still possible that others with higher positions could be involved according to the NBI chief.

Earlier, Ong said an airline passenger manifest showed that Viña left Cebu for Manila on Nov. 23 last year. He returned to Cebu the following night, hours after the Dacer abduction.

According to Ong, Lopez's brother, William, was a longtime asset of Viña.

Dacer and Corbito were abducted along Osmeña Highway in Manila on their way from Dacer's home in Parañaque to his office at the Manila Hotel.

'Breakthrough'

Press Secretary Noel Cabrera described the latest development as a "major breakthrough" in the case.

Emerging from a morning meeting with Perez, Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, seemed convinced that the farmers were telling the truth.

Skeptics, Ermita said, should "just let the evidence stand on its own."

"You know, in this life, it is hard to invent a story," he said. "Let the evidence come out . . . because that is one of the hallmarks of the Macapagal administration—transparency," he said.

Former President Corazon Aquino expressed shock and sadness over the news.

"Of course this is shocking and tragic and I hope that this will not happen again," she told reporters in Makati yesterday.

"I hope that all of us will work together to prevent violence such as this. There is no justification at all for engaging in violence, and I feel very sorry and express my condolences to the family especially to his daughters."

Lawyers

Two lawyers showed up at the NBI yesterday claiming that the farmers were their clients.

Lawyers Nole Panganiban and Ric Balmonte—who claimed they were asked by the victims' family to represent Diloy and Lopez—said their clients were arrested on drug charges but not for the kidnapping and murder of Dacer and his driver.

The two lawyers said they would immediately file with the justice department a manifestation for the revocation of waiver earlier signed by the two suspects.

A waiver of Article 125 of the Revised Penal Code would allow the NBI to take custody of the two suspects within seven days even without the filing of formal charges against them.

The victims' families, curiously, said they had not asked the two lawyers for any help. They said their legal counsel was one Alex Villacorta. *With reports from Martin Marfil, Armand Nocum, Alcuin Papa; AFP*

Macapagal popularity rating jumps to +24% from –4%

(From page A1)

got a net satisfaction rating of +53. In September 1992, then President Fidel Ramos got +66. In September 1998, then President Joseph Estrada got +60.

This was the first time SWS conducted a national survey on Ms Macapagal's performance as president. An SWS Metro Manila survey during the first week of February showed the President getting a net trust rating of +34.

Last December, Ms Macapagal's net satisfaction rating in an SWS national survey was -4.

The Macapagal administration also rated higher than the Estrada administration, a comparison of the March survey with the December survey showed. The Macapagal administration had a rating of +27 while the previous administration got +2.

According to the SWS, Ms Macapagal's rise in popularity cut across different socio-demographic categories.

She was quite popular in the Visayas where she got a net rating of +29. In Metro Manila, she obtained a +23 net rating, in the rest of Luzon a +25 and in Mindanao a +17.

Incidentally, Ms Macapagal hails from Luzon and Mindanao but her husband is from the Visayas.

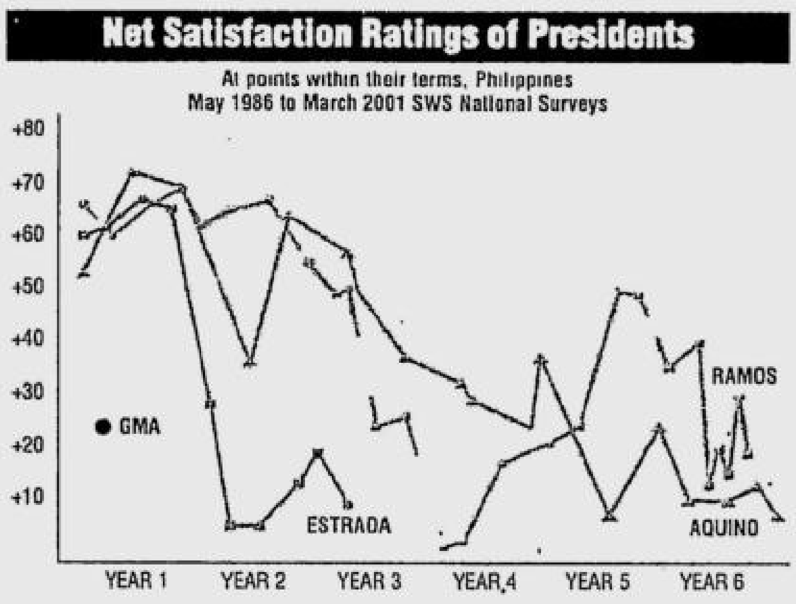
The President's net satisfaction rating was higher in the upper classes: +35 among the ABC classes, +24 among the mass or D class and +19 among the poorest or E class.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona obtained a net satisfaction rating of +19. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel got +39, an improvement compared to his +22 last December. Speaker Feliciano Belmonte got +10.

The ratings of the Senate (+24), House of Representatives (+20) and the Supreme Court (+37) stayed about the same compared to the previous survey.

The SWS did not say if it asked respondents to rate former President Estrada.

The survey had 1,500 respondents. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.



Net Satisfaction Ratings of Presidents

At points within their terms, Philippines
May 1986 to March 2001 SWS National Surveys

The questions about the popularity of the president and her administration as well as those of the vice president, Senate president and House speaker were not commissioned and were included on the initiative of the SWS.

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Reyes beats Strickland, 11-7, in Color of Money II opener

By June Navarro

EFREN 'Bata' Reyes exploited Earl 'The Pearl' Strickland's awful breaks to gain headway in their race-to-33 $20,000 Color of Money II, 11-7, last night at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Reyes, 1999 world 9-ball champion, broke loose from a tight battle, shattering the 7-all count and scoring four straight racks to show the way in their highly touted duel.

"Though I had not practiced for almost two weeks I still won the match. Good thing, bad breaks came Strickland's way,' said the 47-year-old Reyes in Tagalog.

Their confrontation will resume tomorrow at 3 p.m. in another race-to-11 encounter.

Leading two racks at the start, 5-3, Reyes went silent as Strickland capitalized on the Magician's safety shots to take the 11th rack and a 6-5 lead.

'But Reyes kept his composure as the losers' break format did Strickland a disservice, tying the match in the 12th frame.

Reyes then pounced on Strickland's poor breaks to sweep the last four racks.

Strickland capped his awful night when he scratched the cue ball off the break in the seventh game, paving the way for a Reyes cleanup.

REYES prepares to hit the ball in this file photo. Reyes was battling Earl 'The Pearl' Strickland last night in the Color of Money Part II at the Casino Filipino-Parañaque.

Beach volley starts at CCP

JAPAN opens defense of its crown today in the Second Nestea Beach Volleyball Asian Women's Championships at the CCP Complex grounds in Pasay City.

Fifteen teams, including two pairs from the Philippines, are out to snatch the title from the Japanese, which toppled heavy favorite Australia in last year's initial staging.

But a different tandem will represent Japan as Yoko Tokuno and Seiki Kusuhara are expected to fill the void left by the champion duo of Teruko Nakano and Kaori Tuschiya.

Australia's Summer Lochowicz, however, eyes vengeance. She will team up with Kylie Gerlick.

Aside from Japan and Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, China, India, Hong Kong, New Zealand are expected to give local bets Johanna Botor and Helen Dosdos a lesson or two in international beach volley competitions.

Sheryl Tumayao and Jennifer-Buhawe of San Sebastian College will be the other pair carrying the country's colors.

Datu, Bitoon draw

FIDE Master Idelfonso Datu split the point with International Master Richard Bitoon to stay on top after the protest-marred eighth round of the National Open Chess championships at the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan yesterday.

Ably handling black, Datu accepted the draw offered by Bitoon after 17 moves of an English Opening to raise his total to 7.5 points with three rounds left in the elimination round. Bitoon now has 6.5 points

It was the game between IM Chito Garma and National Master Reggie Olay which took the spotlight, however.

Power of 3 Basketball on Sunday

TRYOUTS for the Jollibee Power of 3 North Luzon Basketball Challenge for children will begin simultaneously on April 1 in 10 areas.

The tournament, which will be divided into two categories, is expected to draw 160 teams from 59 Jollibee outlets. Children with ages 7-9 will play in the kids division, while those 10-12 will compete in the juniors division.

In-store tryouts for both divisions are set in Cagayan, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Novaliches, CaMaNaVa (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela), Pangasinan, La Union and Baguio.

Each store will field in at least one team per category. Store teams in the same area will then compete with each other for the area championships. Winning teams will receive medals and prizes from Jollibee.

Area championships will start in Cagayan on April 29.

Children may try out in all participating stores, provided they buy any of the Jollibee favorites or The Power Meals.

Specially made Power of 3 basketball goals will be set up in all stores with one court for each division. Uniforms will be given free.

The tournament is a project of the Jollibee North Luzon Business Unit with Ditas Mendoza as marketing manager.

Theme Works, headed by Miguel Minana, will organize and manage the event. Tournament director is Tanny Gonzales.

PSC seminar OKs benefits

SHOWING a united force, 513 athletes and coaches from 42 National Sports Associations (NSAs) attended the first-ever Athletes' Values Formation Seminar Wednesday as the Philippine Sports Commission bared a list of benefits aimed at raising the standard of assistance to athletes.

Among those approved for immediate implementation are the purchase of vitamins, renovation of athletes' quarters, formation of an Advisory Group under the Office of the Chairman, option for athletes to obtain their meal allowance in cash, lobbying for greater Pagcor share and the purchase of sports equipment for the coming SEA Games.

PSC Chair Carlos D. Tuason said the seminar provided the athletes an opportunity to review and differentiate the distinct roles being played by the PSC, the NSAs, and the Philippine Olympic Committee in the development of local sports.

"We have come to realize that all of us have responsibilities to internalize. That we need unity for us to move forward decently and efficiently," Tuason told participants.

Indonesia 7th nation in Seaba cagefest

INDONESIA yesterday confirmed its participation in the 4th South East Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) Men's Championships, making it a seven-nation bash on April 2-7 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Indonesia Basketball Association assistant secretary general James D. Mantik validated on Wednesday night the participation of Indonesia, the champion of the Surabaya Seaba in 1997.

Pitting guts and skills with the Indonesians are defending champion Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei and Vietnam.

Coached by David Zamar and bannered by the best players from the Metropolitan Basketball Association, the Philippine national team debuts in the week-long, six-nation championships against Singapore on April 2.

The last time that seven teams or more gathered for the Seaba Championships was in 1998 in Manila, when eight countries participated in the Seaba Young Men's Basketball Championships.

Indonesia's last-minute entry had the organizers revising the schedule. Instead of a single-round elimination affair for the entire field, the cast is now divided into two groups with the Philippines bracketed with Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Top teams in each group play the second-ranked teams in the opposite bracket with the winners advancing in a winner-take-all championship on April 7.

The event, which will be free of charge to the public, will be marketed and aired live by ABS-CBN's production outfit using PTV4 as broadcast vehicle.

The defending champion nationals play Vietnam on April 3 before finishing their elimination round assignment against Malaysia the following day.

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Capriati downs Serena

MIAMI— Australian Open champion Jennifer Capriati and Aussie star Lleyton Hewitt each took straight-set victories Thursday to reach the semifinals at the 6.12 million-dollar Tennis Masters Series event here.

One day before her 25th birthday, fourth-seeded American Capriati defeated fifth-seeded compatriot Serena Williams, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5).

Hewitt dispatched American Andy Roddick 6-3, 6-2 to book a semifinal date against the winner of a later match between American Jan-Michael Gambill and Argentina's Gaston Gaudio.

Williams, nursing a sore left thigh muscle, squandered three set points in the second and dropped the match with a pair of errant forehands on the final points. Capriati, hurting with a blistered foot, was relieved not to go three.

AFP

Godoy prevails

Charisse Godoy swept to a second straight title in one week while Catherine Flores completed a rare double championship yesterday as they led the early winners in the championship matches of the Juntaphil-Los Baños juniors tennis championships here at the Los Banos Tennis Club courts. Sharing the spotlight in the tournament supported by Dunlop, Enervon, Planet Sports and PTS Avents were Mauric Lao, Russel Arcilla and Gerard Michael Ngo.

NGAP unfurls new vision

EMBOLDENED by the recent gains of an Asian neighbor, the National Golf Association of the Philippines yesterday placed its jungolfers under the wings of renowned teaching pro George Walker.

The NGAP's new vision hopes to put the top jungolfers under a long-term plan in the hope of honing these talents for future use in the national team. "Thailand has had a lot of success using this formula and we are hoping that by boosting the grassroots program, we will be able to achieve similar results," said NGAP president Rod Feliciano.

Feliciano originally brought in Walker to take on the teaching chores of the country's national team but decided to broaden the Scottish pro's job description by training the country's young golfers.

"Hopefully, after developing young kids, we will have deep pool of national players," said Feliciano. Walker, whose tieup with the NGAP is bankrolled by the Philippine Sports Commission, is impressed by the talent of the athletes in the ranks of the jungolfers, according to NGAP training pool chair Iggy Clavecilla. "He is very optimistic with the plan and he gets along well with the kids," said Clavecilla.

Clavecilla noted that jungolfers have been responding well to Walker's teaching and said several of them have made key improvements in their game. "The project actually works both ways. After the kids undergo training with the NGAP they will be used in international meets and hopefully be released to the different golf clubs in the country," said Clavecilla.

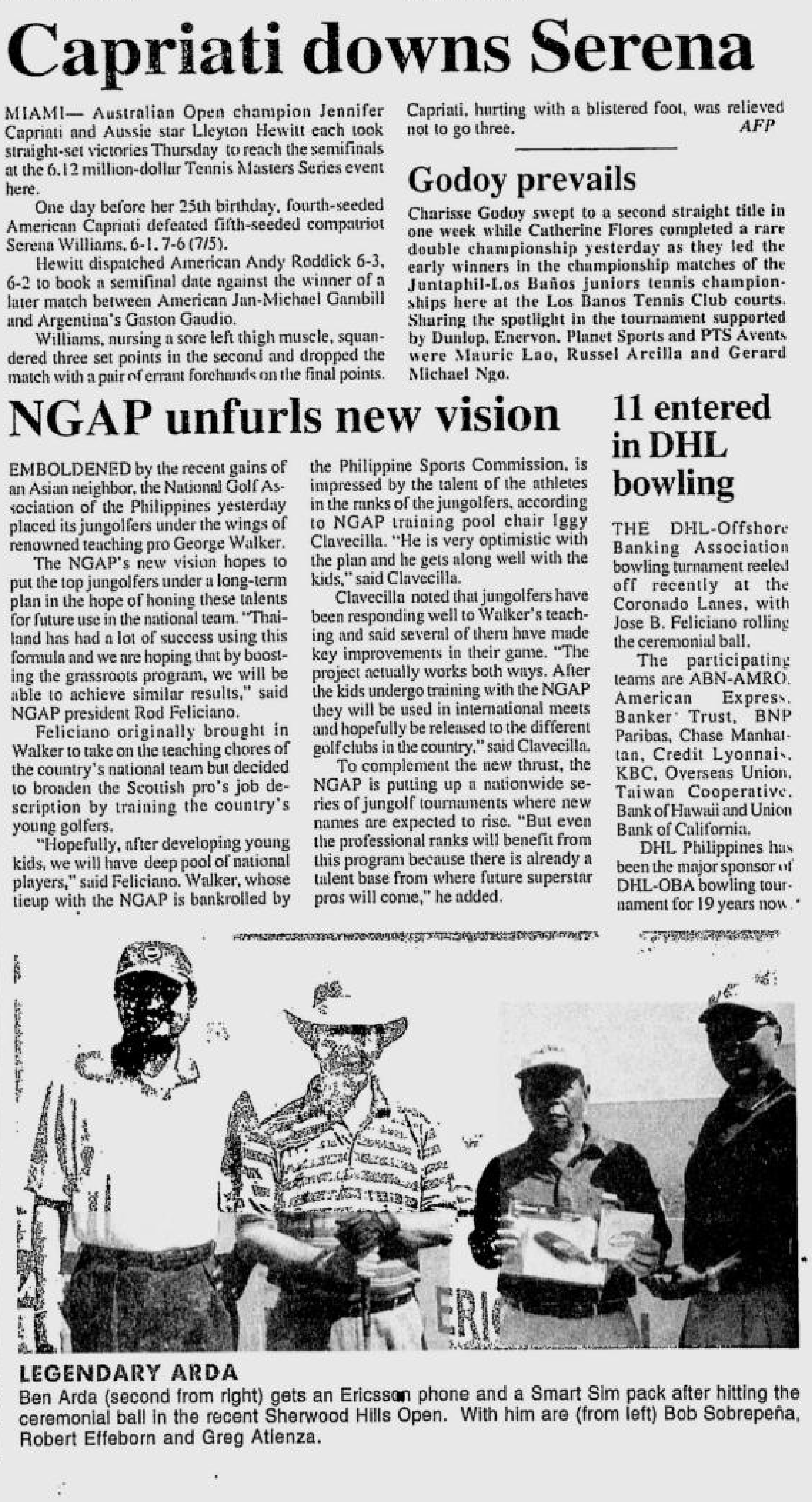
To complement the new thrust, the NGAP is putting up a nationwide series of jungolf tournaments where new names are expected to rise. "But even the professional ranks will benefit from this program because there is already a talent base from where future superstar pros will come," he added.

11 entered in DHL bowling

THE DHL-Offshore Banking Association bowling turnament reeled off recently at the Coronado Lanes, with Jose B. Feliciano rolling the ceremonial ball.

The participating teams are ABN-AMRO, American Express, Banker' Trust, BNP Paribas, Chase Manhattan, Credit Lyonnais, KBC, Overseas Union, Taiwan Cooperative, Bank of Hawaii and Union Bank of California.

DHL Philippines has been the major sponsor of DHL-OBA bowling tournament for 19 years now.



LEGENDARY ARDA
Ben Arda (second from right) gets an Ericsson phone and a Smart Sim pack after hitting the ceremonial ball in the recent Sherwood Hills Open. With him are (from left) Bob Sobrepeña, Robert Effeborn and Greg Atienza.

Shark defeats Ana, grabs PBL lead

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Hapee Toothpaste vs Montaña
4 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Ateneo-Pioneer

By DENNIS U. EROA

PLAYMAKER Michael Robinson gunned down two triples in the homestretch last night as Shark Energy Drink defeated Ana Freezers, 70-61, to become the solo leader in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

In the curtain-raiser, another pointguard towered as comebacking Ogie Gumatay powered GIV Soap to a masterful 85-70 victory over PharmaQuick.

The Power Boosters controlled the ballgame right from the start but they needed Robinson's fourth-quarter explosion to repulse the rallying Freezer Kings.

It was Shark's second straight victory while Ana absorbed its first defeat after beating Hapee in its debut last Tuesday.

Fresh from the bench, Robinson mocked Ronald Tubid's defense, scoring a three-point shot that broke Shark's four-minute scoring drought, 57-47.

And when Ana threatened anew at 62-53, Robinson responded with his second triple for Shark's imposing 65-53 advantage, three minutes left.

For the second straight game, Ana played without a head coach.

Assistant playing coach Rey Mendez typified Ana's scrambling show as he failed to score a basket in his first 21 minutes of play. A new face in Ana's bench last night was Paolo Mendoza, who was appointed team consultant.

High-leaping Chester Tolomia poured in 12 of his game-high 23 points in the third quarter. He earned a standing ovation with a thunderous dunk over a hapless Dondon Mendoza, inspiring his teammates to continue pummeling the Freezers.

Gumatay, considered as the missing link in GIV's (formerly Blu Sun Power) title-drive, shone after a forgettable stint with Red Bull in the PBA.

The former UP Maroon started slowly but he proved unstoppable the moment he jelled with the Soap Masters.

Gumatay finished with 16 points, eight assists and three rebounds. Egay Billones, now back to his usual off-guard position, Eric de la Cuesta, Edwin Bacani and Marlon Legaspi benefited from Gumatay's nifty passes and all finished in double figures.

SCORES: (First Game)

GIV Soap 85—Billones 25, Gumatay 16, Legaspi 15, Bacani 14, De la Cuesta 11, Epondulan 2, Roldan 2, Sanz 0, Quiambao 0, Calo 0, Kalaw 0, Prior 0.

PharmaQuick 70—Alfad 13, Avenido 13, Lim 11, Jabar 10, Lapinid 8, Canoneo 6, Velez 4, Jones 0, Lanete 0.

Quarters:24-24,39-34,53-56,85-70

(Second Game)

Shark 70—Tolomia 23, Robinson 17, Malabanan 12, Castro 6, Ybañez 4, Caceres 2, Basilides 2, Ortega 2, Gumpenberger 0, Sotto 0.

Ana Freezer 61—Pascual 14, Tubid 11, Artadi 10, Mendoza D. 9, De Castro 7, Capus 6, Mendoza 2, Vilar 2.

Quarters:16-11,36-28,54-42, 70-61.

PBA refs are a pain in the neck

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association has finally come to its senses by instituting timely measures such as curbing the skyrocketing salaries of its franchise players.

Fine. But more than that and more to the point, PBA Commissioner Bernardino is well-advised to also act on the problem of poor officiating which is threatening to erode public confidence in the most profitable sports organization in Philippine basketball history. Jun B should show more teeth, not much tail, by wielding the big stick against incompetent referees because it is his responsibility and moral obligation to the paying public and the team owners.

"Nowadays, the teams are playing with unmatched ferocity because the results are important in their quest for quarterfinal slots," said a loyal follower of the 26-year pro league. "Therefore, in fairness to the team onwers and the fans as well, PBA refs should always be spotlessly clean and fair."

However, this is easier said than done. And to stress my point, I will cite the most recent instances where the public and team owners were the unfortunate victims of some really questionable officiating:

On March 25 at the Ynares Center during the Tanduay-Pop Cola matchup, the Rhummasters "lost to the referees" when they were slapped three technical fouls in the dying minutes of the crucial game. The count was tied at 73-all when Tanduay's top gun Jeffrey Cariaso drove for the marginal goal and was fouled. When no foul was called, Cariaso, as expected, protested, drawing a technical. Because of this technical foul, Cariaso reacted even more and was slapped a second technical, resulting in his outright ejection from the game.

As a consequence, Tanduay team owner Bong Tan reacted angrily and received a technical, too, the third time in a row for the hapless Rhummasters, who eventually lost, 75-82.

In another case on March 24 in Malolos, Bulacan, the referees ganged up on Batang Red Bull, obviously their favorite "whipping boy." During that game, which Red Bull lost to Sta. Lucia, Thunder coach Yeng Guiao was ejected from the game after he received two technical fouls with less than 10 minutes to go. His mistake? Yeng protested a questionable call, one of several blatant botches that day, and ultimately banished from the court when protested some more.

Still much earlier on March 21 at the Philsports Arena, the referees again showed their bias against Batang Red Bull, slapping the Thunder with a whopping 39 fouls compared to only 19 on the Purefoods side. The TJ Hotdogs converted 30 big points out of 39 tries at the free throw area en route to victory.

China's Wang Asia's first in NBA

WANG

BEIJING—Chinese center Wang Zhizhi is to sign a two-year contract with the Dallas Mavericks of the National Basketball Association this week and become the first Asian player in the NBA, team officials said Thursday.

Wang was expected to sign the NBA minimum contract for a first-year player drafted in the second round, Nelson said.

Wang's performance in the next two weeks would determine whether or not he makes the post-season playoff roster, he added.

"One thing is for sure... he will be treated like any other player when it comes to on the court issues, he will have to earn a spot, there is no favoritism," Nelson told a packed room of Chinese journalists.

The 7'2" (2.12 meter) Wang, 24, averaged 27.5 points and 11 rebounds a game in the just completed finals of the Chinese league, while averaging 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Bayi team during the regular season. *AFP*

Magic beat 76ers

PHILADELPHIA—Tracy McGrady matched a career-high with 44 points and hit a driving bank shot with 2.7 seconds as the Orlando Magic held off a frenzied comeback by Philadelphia and beat the 76ers 96-95 Wednesday night.

McGrady, who shot 18-for-35 from the field, took an inbound pass with 7.6 seconds left and drove straight down the lane to hit the winning basket. A desperation heave by Allen Iverson fell short for Philadelphia, which lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Iverson, battling bronchitis, finished with 37 points and 10 turnovers. His three-point play with 7.6 seconds remaining gave the Sixers a 95-94 lead.

Complete results:

New Jersey 99, Denver 96; Orlando 96, Philadelphia 95; Phoenix 103, Cleveland 94; Dallas 94, Portland 84; Seattle 94, Minnesota 93; Sacramento 108, L.A. Lakers 84. *AP*

Karl highest-paid

MILWAUKEE—George Karl became the highest-paid coach in professional sports and a part-owner of the Milwaukee Bucks.

Terms weren't revealed, but a source with knowledge of the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity said the two-year extension is worth $14 million and also includes a small slice -believed to be 1 to 2 percent -of the franchise that is valued at $125 million.

Karl, who turns 50 in May, is committed to the Bucks through the 2003-04 season. *AP*

4-cock derby tonight

THIRTY-FIVE cockers and breeders of Metro Manila are entered in today's special 4-cock derby at the Pasay City Cockpit beginning at 7 p.m.

The top prize is P300,000 in this event hosted by sportsman Boy Eusebio of Makati. Entry fee is P10,000.

The participants include Emil Chua, Relly Reyes, Edwin Vitalli, Cito Manansala, Abong Guce, William Co, Lito Orillaza, Joey Jao, Tony Lasala, lawyer Onofre Abella and Muroy Dolorico, among others.

Pasay City Cockpit, managed by the team of pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy dela Rosa, is now the venue of medium-scale and big-time derbies.

Hackfights are held every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. For inquiries, call 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Yu solo NCA champion

SCORING 6-1/2 sizzling points, Vic Yu's dreaded entry, May 29-31 and June 2 Ucap International Derby, emerged solo champion on Wednesday in the NCA (National Cockers Association) 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ucap International won six fights and drew only one to rule the derby hosted by Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco and Eddie and Bomboy Araneta. Ito Ynares' Binangonan MSK and Manny Kho landed solo second, posting 5-1/2 points, while four others finished joint third, registering identical 5 points.

The five-pointers were Cat Stingers of derby hosts Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Capitan III of Alan Tan and Patrick Puno, JRS Spectrum May 25 of Jun Sevilla and PBRJ Binangonan of Ito Ynares and Boyboy Roa.

Meanwhile, everything is set for the next NCA 7-Cock Derby on April 23-25. This all-star derby will be hosted by Boy Velez, Romy Pamatmat, Johnny Jalandoni, Boy Nilo Lizares and Louis Cua.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: 2001 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, East Regional Final at 8 am. (r) on ESPN

NBA - Utah Jazz vs San Antonio Spurs at 9 a.m. (r- 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

Tivo NIT Championship at 10 a.m. and midnight on ESPN

Chinese National Basketball League Finals, Game #5 (If Necessary) at 3:30 p.m. on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA - The Players Championship Highlights at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 12 noon (r- 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

PGA Bellsouth Classic, First Round at 11:30 p.m. (delayed) on Star Sports

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BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Sunny Sky 2. Princely Native

Race 3—1. Padron Real 2. Ang Seaman 3. Darth Vader 4. Mighty Glow

Race 4—1. Grand Dancer 2. The Mailman/ Ground Fighter 3. Turbo Carera 4. Enseguida

Race 5—1. Storm Rising 2. Party Princess 3. Bright Task 4. Pep Up

Race 6—1. All Smiles 2. Extraordinaire 3. Top Quest 4. Red Bells

Race 7—1. Glorious Riches 2. Native Talent 3. Maria Nevada 4. Striking Bouncy

Race 8—1. Sonata 2. Absolute Power 3. Victoria Scarlet 4. En Carta

Race 9—1. Filthy Rich 2. Hingis 3. Mina's Pet 4. Modulo Queen

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All you need this Summer!

Brown files $200-M suit vs NFL

NEW YORK —Orlando Brown filed a $ 200 million lawsuit against the National Football League on Wednesday, claiming his career was ended by eye injuries sustained from a penalty flag thrown by a referee. Brown's complaint charges the league failed "to properly supervise and enforce rules that flags be properly weighed and thrown in a proper fashion," said lawyer Clifford J. Stern, who said he signed the complaint. *AP*

SPORTS

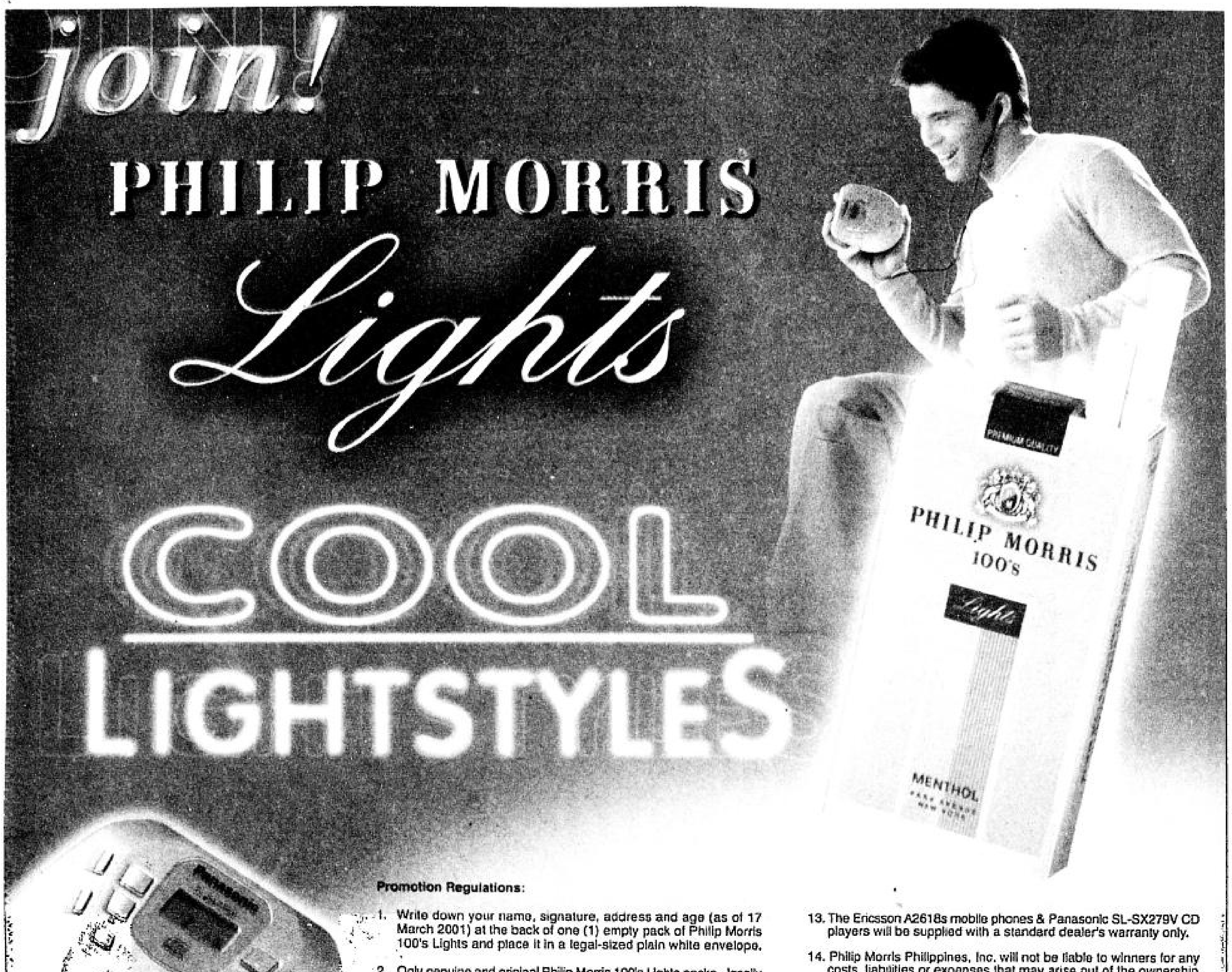
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Moses sets world record

AUSTIN, Texas —Ed Moses has been on the brink of breaking the world record in the 100-meter breaststroke for more than a year. He did it yesterday at the USA Swimming National Championships with a time of 1 minute, 00.29 seconds, breaking Roman Sloudnov's mark (1:00.36) set in June 2000 at the Russian Olympic trials. He earned $12,5000 from USA Swimming. *AP*

Shark defeats Ana for 2nd win in PBL Chairman's Cup

Page A23



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1. Write down your name, signature, address and age (as of 17 March 2001) at the back of one (1) empty pack of Philip Morris 100's Lights and place it in a legal-sized plain white envelope.
2. Only genuine and original Philip Morris 100's Lights packs - locally produced by La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory, purchased in the Philippines, and bearing the Philippine Government Health Warning & pack seal - with the complete information requested in item # 1, will be accepted as valid raffle entries.
3. Only smokers who are Philippine Residents, 18 years old and above, are qualified to join the promotion.
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5. Promotion period : March 17 to May 05, 2001.
6. There will be two (2) draw dates, as follows:

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7. Each participant can only win one prize in each draw. If a participant's name is drawn twice, he/she automatically gets the prize with a higher value and a winner for the prize with a lower value will be re-drawn.
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9. All prizes are not convertible to cash.
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11. The names of the winners will be published in a Winners Ad in the Philippine Daily Inquirer or The Philippine Star on the dates listed in item # 6. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names in the Winners Ad. Winners will also be notified by registered mail to further explain how, where & when the winners can claim their respective prizes.
12. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after the winners receive the notification letters from Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. will be forfeited, with prior approval of DOH-BFAD.
13. The Ericsson A2618s mobile phones & Panasonic SL-SX279V CD players will be supplied with a standard dealer's warranty only.
14. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. will not be liable to winners for any costs, liabilities or expenses that may arise out of the ownership or use of all the prizes.
15. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and its agents are not responsible for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated or late entries.
16. Winners must present the registered mail sent to them by Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. together with two (2) legally acceptable evidences of identification (such as a certified true copy of a birth certificate, a voter's ID, passport or driver's license). In the event that the claimant is unable to present valid identification, he/she must be able to submit affidavits executed by the winner as well as a local community official, to verify and establish his/her identity.
17. In cases where the winner, for acceptable reasons, cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy on his/her behalf. The proxy should present a letter of authorization prepared and signed for by the winner. This should be submitted with the registered mail sent to the winner by Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and two (2) legally acceptable IDs of the winner. The proxy should also bring two (2) original & legally acceptable documents to prove his/her identity.
18. All decisions of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and its agents are final and no correspondence will be entered into. The draw shall be void where prohibited or restricted by law.
19. Employees of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc., their affiliates, subsidiaries, distributors, dealers, suppliers, advertising and promotional agents, DOH-BFAD representatives and employees of La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity, are not qualified to join this promotion.

Only smokers (Philippine Residents) 18 years old and above, are qualified to join the promotion.

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Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

GERRY Esplana of Shell (right) scores against Sta. Lucia Realty's Jercules Tangkay with a layup during their PBA game Wednesday night. The Turbochargers won, 82-72. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Ginebra battles Purefoods

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

SAN MIGUEL Beer guns for a playoff berth for the twice-to-beat slot in the PBA All-Filipino Cup quarterfinals when it takes on Batang Red Bull today at Philsports.

The Beermen are expected to use their 79-71 loss to Purefoods as motivation in their game against the Thunder, who are themselves coming from a three-game slump.

In the other game, Purefoods hopes to extend its three-game winning run against Barangay Ginebra.

The Hotdogs, Gins and Thunder are in the thick of things in the chase for Top 4 slots which will assure a team the twice-to-beat incentive.

Ties will be resolved by the quotient system.

Meanwhile, PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino has deferred his decision to impose fines on Tanduay Gold team owner Bong Tan, players Jeff Cariaso and Bonel Balingit and coaching staff member Dan Rose.

Instead, Bernardino summoned referees Luisito Cruz and Ernie de Leon, who dealt technical fouls on the Rhummasters aside from ejecting Cariaso out of the game during the Tanduay-Pop Cola game last week.

It was not immediately known what Bernardino told the referees, who worked that controversial, technical-riddled game won by Pop Cola, 82-75.

Tan stood up Bernardino Wednesday due to a previous engagement.

Tan met with the media Wednesday night to air his side. He denied having broken the door leading to their dugout after their game against Pop Cola.

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L
Shell	9	3
SMB	7	4
Red Bull	6	5
Ginebra	6	5
Pop Cola	6	5
Purefoods	6	6
Alaska	6	6
Mobiline	5	7
Tanduay	4	8
Sta. Lucia	3	9

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Purefoods vs Ginebra
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel

Pangasinan kitefest on April 1

BEAR Brand Kitefest 2001, the biggest and most prestigious kite-flying competition in the country, will be held in Pangasinan on April 1 at the Narciso Ramos Sports Complex in Lingayen.

Open to all individuals, groups of family members or friends, the event has four categories: Junior Kite for Children, Flat Kite, Geometric Kite and Figure Kite Category.

Cash prizes and trophies are at stake in the annual competition, which will also be held in Manila and other key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Apart from Pangasinan, the Bear Brand Kitefest 2001 will also be held in Tagbilaran, Bohol on April 8, Baguio on April 22, Puerto Princesa on April 29 and Metro Manila on May 13.

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WPD cop runs wild, beats up 20

By Christian V. Esguerra

A POLICEMAN from the Western Police District allegedly went wild in a billiard hall in Caloocan City before dawn yesterday and beat up and threatened at least 20 people.

Caloocan police are set to file charges against PO3 Arthur de Guia of the WPD Police Station 11. A check with the WPD confirmed De Guia is indeed a member of Station 11.

One of the policeman's alleged victims, Marlon Jurok, 16, said De Guzman and two companions stormed 10 Cues Billiards on 10th Avenue in Caloocan at about 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

Another victim, Arnold Solidum, 22, said De Guzman and his companions, who were identified only as Boy and Ambet, were all drunk when they arrived at the billiard hall.

Solidum said the three men alighted from a vehicle in front of the billiard hall and confronted the young men at the entrance for being noisy.

De Guia and his companions began shouting at the young men, prompting the latter to go upstairs and seek refuge, said Allan Lising, 20.

The young men said De Guzman and his companions followed them upstairs and started punching and kicking them.

De Guia also poked his gun at those who were playing billiards on the second floor, the victims added.

They said De Guzman dragged Jurok to the policeman's vehicle and brought him to WPD Station 11, where he was detained for at least 30 minutes.

Jurok said that while they were in the vehicle, De Guia told him: "*Tingnan ko lang kung may magawa ang mga pulis* Caloocan (Let's see if the Caloocan police can do anything)."

Jurok said he was allowed to go only after his mother, accompanied by members of the Caloocan police, interceded for his release.

De Guzman's companions, Boy and Ambet, who were detained at the Caloocan police headquarters, denied the allegations. They said it was the young men who took turns in beating them up.

The thin complainants, who were obviously no match for the hefty suspects, laughed off the counter-allegations.

De Guia as of yesterday afternoon was still trying to convince the complainants and the investigators not to file charges against him.

If he could not convince them, De Guzman could be facing charges of grave threats, child abuse and slight physical injuries.

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Japanese spits at Naia reporter, hugs airline woman

By TJ Burgonio

FOUR Japanese nationals were barred from entering Manila yesterday, one for drunkenness and the three for their alleged links to the Yakuza gang.

A drunken Ryuichi Wakamoto, 27, caused a stir at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport when he started harassing airline staff, passengers and immigration officers because his travel documents were missing.

Wakamoto, a consultant hired by the Department of Public Works and Highways for the Pasig River rehabilitation project, became unruly upon his arrival at Naia 1 after he failed to find his ticket and passport, immigration officer Rudy David said.

"He embraced a female airline staff, spat at a reporter and shoved passengers," David said. "He even held me by the collar and accused me of taking away his passport."

The reporter was not immediately identified.

It turned out that Wakamoto's travel papers had been in his jacket and in his bag all along.

"I'm sorry," the Japanese, who was still reeking of liquor and was wobbling, kept telling chief intelligence officer Tom Natividad and David inside the Bureau of Immigration office at Naia.

Despite the man's apologies, Natividad recommended his inclusion on the immigration blacklist.

But a diplomatic official of the Japan International Cooperation Agency appealed to Natividad not to place Wakamoto on the blacklist, saying that he came to Manila to help in the rehabilitation of the polluted Pasig River.

He said Wakamoto had fear of flying and had to drink liquor to calm himself.

Natividad, however, suggested that the appeal be addressed to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo. Only if the appeal is approved would Wakamoto be allowed to enter Manila, he said.

Wakamoto's fellow Japanese passengers, Minori Azuma, 48; Haruo Yabe, 46; and Takayuki Ogino, 42, were also barred from entering Manila on suspicion that they were members of the dreaded Yakuza criminal syndicate.

All four Japanese, who flew in on the same flight, were placed in Japan Airlines' return flight for Narita.

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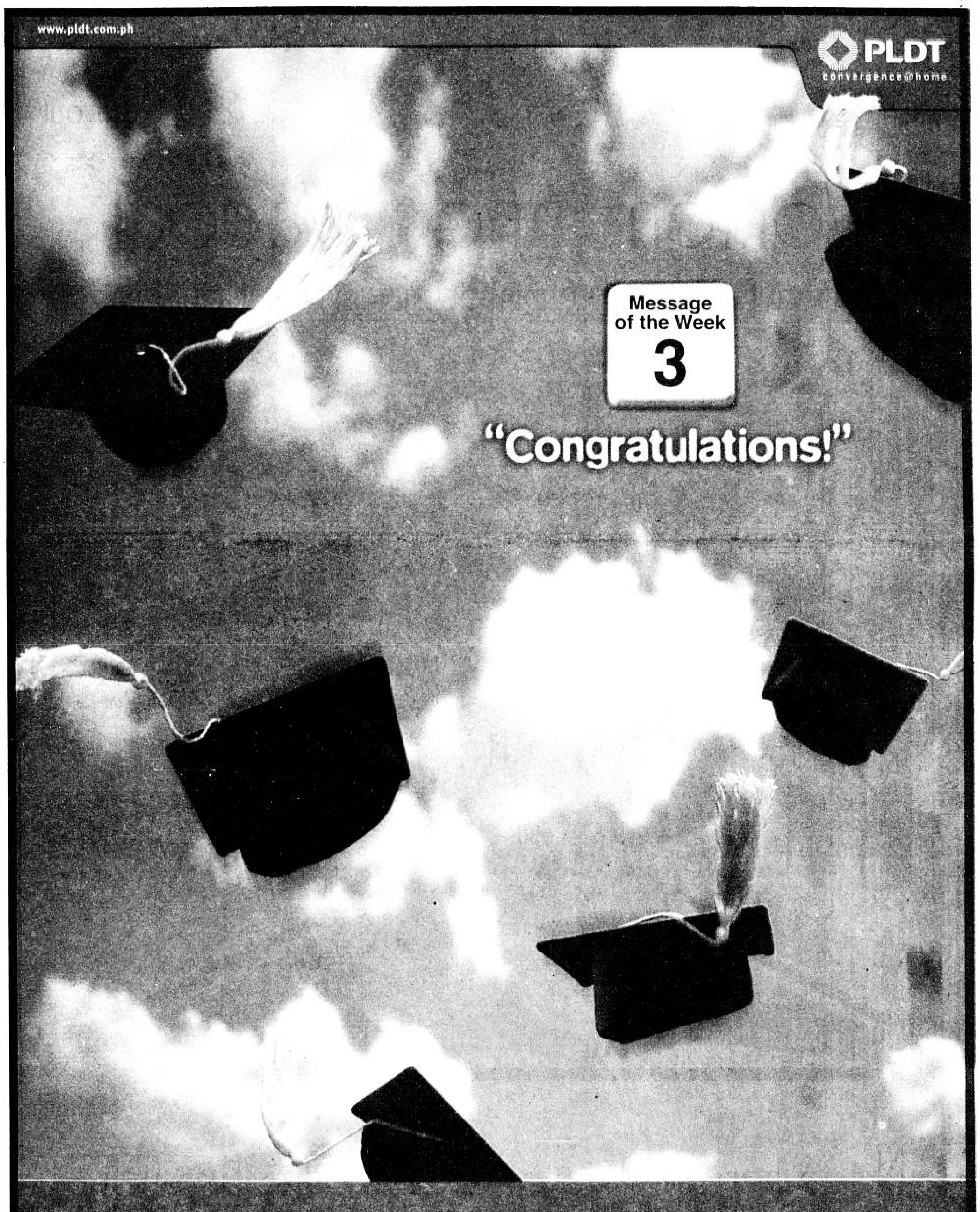

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- Press 3 for "Have a nice day"
- Press 4 for "I love you"
- Press 5 for "Happy Birthday"
- Press 6 for "Please come home early"
- Press 7 for "Please don't forget my bilin! Thanks."
- Press 8 for "Sorry, I'll be late"
- Press 9 for "Sorry, I can't make it"
- Press 10 for "Don't worry, everything will be okay"

3. Enter sender's name or send right away. Voice prompt will confirm if message is sent.

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- Watch SOP JAMMING the following week to find out the most requested song.

Male fetus found floating in QC creek

A 9-MONTH-OLD male fetus was found floating in a creek at the Bureau of Animal Industry compound in Quezon City yesterday morning.

"He must have been a victim of induced abortion," said PO3 Ferdinand Paredes, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

BAI employee Nathaniel V. Rina, 43, of Block 8 Lot 8, Filinvest, San Pedro, Laguna, discovered the fetus in Culiat Creek, Paredes said.

Rina was on the bridge over the creek when he saw the fetus about 7:30 a.m.

"His body was still intact and, from the looks of it, he was ready to be born," Paredes said.

He added the victim's parents could be residents of the nearby slum area where the creek also passes.

The fetus was taken to the Prudential Funeral Homes, Paredes said.

Philip C. Tubeza

SAME STREET, DIFFERENT CRASH
This FTI-bound bus also figured in an accident on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, on Wednesday morning. That same night on the same stretch, another bus rammed into a passenger jeepney injuring 15 people. ROMY HOMILLADA

15 hurt in another jeep-bus collision

By Philip C. Tubeza

A JOYCELL Transit aircon bus rammed into a passenger jeepney on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City and injured 15 people Wednesday night.

Bus driver Jeronimo C. Rivera, 22, of Drilin Street, North Fairview, Quezon City, voluntarily surrendered to authorities after the Joycell bus (NYN-284) he was driving collided with the jeepney (PXU-102), said PO3 Garry Talacay, of the Central Police District Sector V.

Talacay identified the victims as jeepney driver Isaac Lumbian, 30, Hazel Jimenez, Amelia Manalo, Jose Pedrajita, Susan Rodriguez, Emily Dasmarinas, Lorenzo Zaguirre, Mary Mylene Loreto, Marilou Nestor, Domingo Pedraita, Eleazar Miranda, Roselyn Molina, Jerry Santaho, Amy Osorio, and Juanito Baque.

The victims were taken to the East Avenue Medical Center and the Fairview General Hospital, Talacay added.

Rivera was driving on the northbound lane of Commonwealth going to Fairview about 9:45 p.m., when he lost his brakes, Talacay said.

He said the bus rammed into the jeep right in front of the Meadows Grocery Store.

The force of the impact drove the jeepney forward, which hit a parked Nissan Vannette (THI-585).

Luckily, no one was killed among the jeepney's passengers, Talacay said.

Bus driver Rivera is now facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple physical injuries, police said.

Man gets life for hacking neighbor 13 times

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CONSTRUCTION worker yesterday was sentenced to life in prison for brutally killing his 26-year-old neighbor in Caloocan City last year.

Eduardo Bermas, of Hidalgo Street, Villa Imelda Area D, Camarin, Caloocan, was found guilty by Caloocan Regional Trial Court Judge Bayani Rivera.

The judge also ordered Bermas to pay the family of victim Salvador Bandoquillo P104,500 in damages.

At about 3:30 p.m. on May 2, Bandoquillo, a vendor, was fixing the window of his house when Bermas, for no apparent reason, came from behind and hacked him three times in the nape with a bolo, according to court records.

As Bandoquillo's horrified wife and four children watched, Bermas stabbed him again in the left side as Bandoquillo turned to face him.

The victim's wife Jocelyn tried to help her husband, but Bermas attacked her with the bolo and slashed her left palm, court records showed.

Bandoquillo ran out of the house, but Bermas caught up with him and hacked him in the head, arm, shoulder, knee, and chest, all the while shouting he would kill the rest of Bandoquillo's family.

Bandoquillo died before he could reach the Tala General Hospital. Bermas later surrendered to the police.

In his defense, Bermas denied he attacked the victim from behind, which aggravated his case.

He claimed Bandoquillo provoked him to a fight by scolding him for being drunk.

After the judge handed down the verdict, Bermas was taken to the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa to serve out his sentence.

Traffic on Shaw Blvd. rerouted for PPC rally

THE MANDALUYONG City Traffic Administration will close a stretch of Shaw Boulevard to heavy vehicles tomorrow from 7 a.m. to midnight to give way to the proclamation rally of the Metro Manila candidates of the People Power Coalition.

All PPC candidates from the 17 cities and towns of Metro Manila are expected to attend the Saturday rally at Edsa.

City traffic officials are advising motorists to avoid the stretch of Shaw from Acacia Lane to Gomezville and instead take these alternative routes.

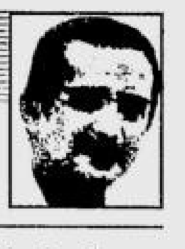
From Sta. Mesa, those going to Pasig may take the San Juan route, and those going to Makati may take Kalentong Street.

Vehicles from Makati may take San Rafael Street, Barangka Drive and Nueve de Febrero. Motorists from Manila going to Boni Avenue may turn right on L. Gonzales Street.

West-bound vehicles may take the Quezon City route and turn left on Edsa Ortigas.

East-bound vehicles may take Mabini or Lee Street in Wack-Wack. Those passing through P. Cruz Street going to Kalentong may go straight to Blumentritt.

BARE EYE



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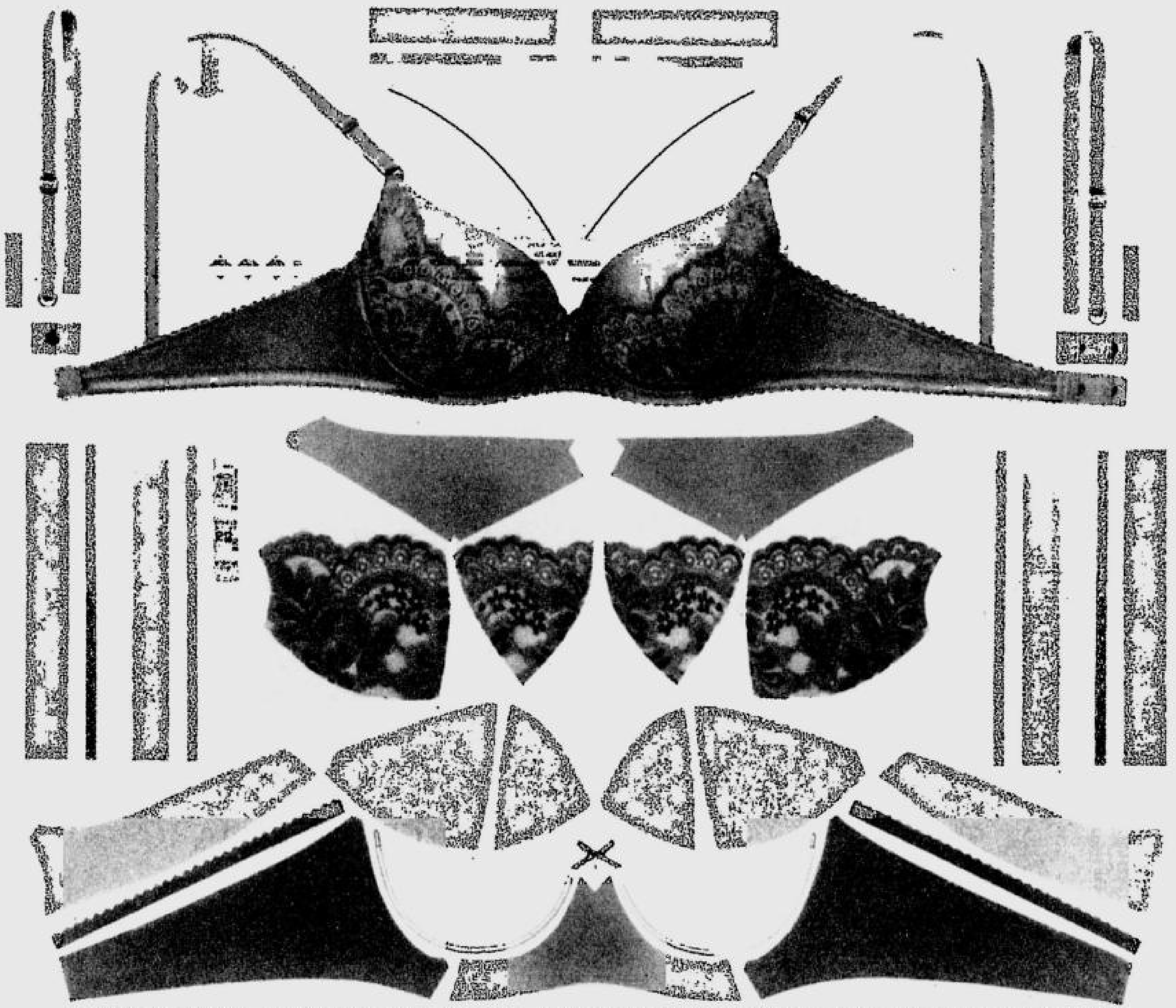

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Fortune teller slain by his 'neglected' son

By Christian V. Esguerra

A FORTUNE teller was hacked to death by his 32-year-old son, whom he had allegedly neglected, in Caloocan City on Wednesday night.

Manuel Carpio, 67, of Barrio Concepcion, Tala, Caloocan, was hacked all over the body by his son Benedict, a vendor, at about 8 p.m. Wednesday, said case investigator PO3 Elvis Imperial.

Initial investigation by the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 9 in Bagong Silang showed that the attack occurred while Manuel and Benedict were drinking liquor in Benedict's house at Phase 5, Package 3, Block 3, Lot 5, Bagong Silang.

Police said father and son agreed to finally settle their old feud over bottles of spirits.

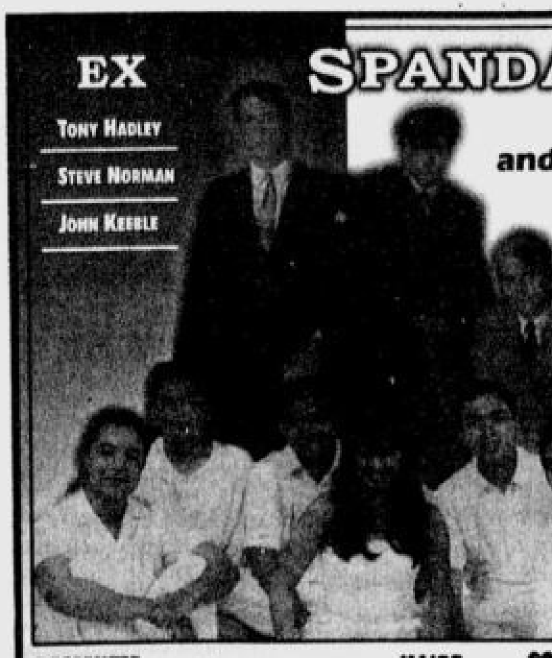
The son reportedly confronted his father for neglecting him. Police did not elaborate.

Police said tempers flared during the drinking session and Benedict suddenly pulled out "a bladed weapon" and repeatedly hacked his unsuspecting father.

Relatives rushed Manuel to the Far Eastern University Hospital in Fairview, Quezon City. He died while undergoing treatment.

Members of the Caloocan-PCP 9 later arrested Benedict, who is now detained at the Caloocan Police Station 1.

Police are set to file parricide charges against the son.



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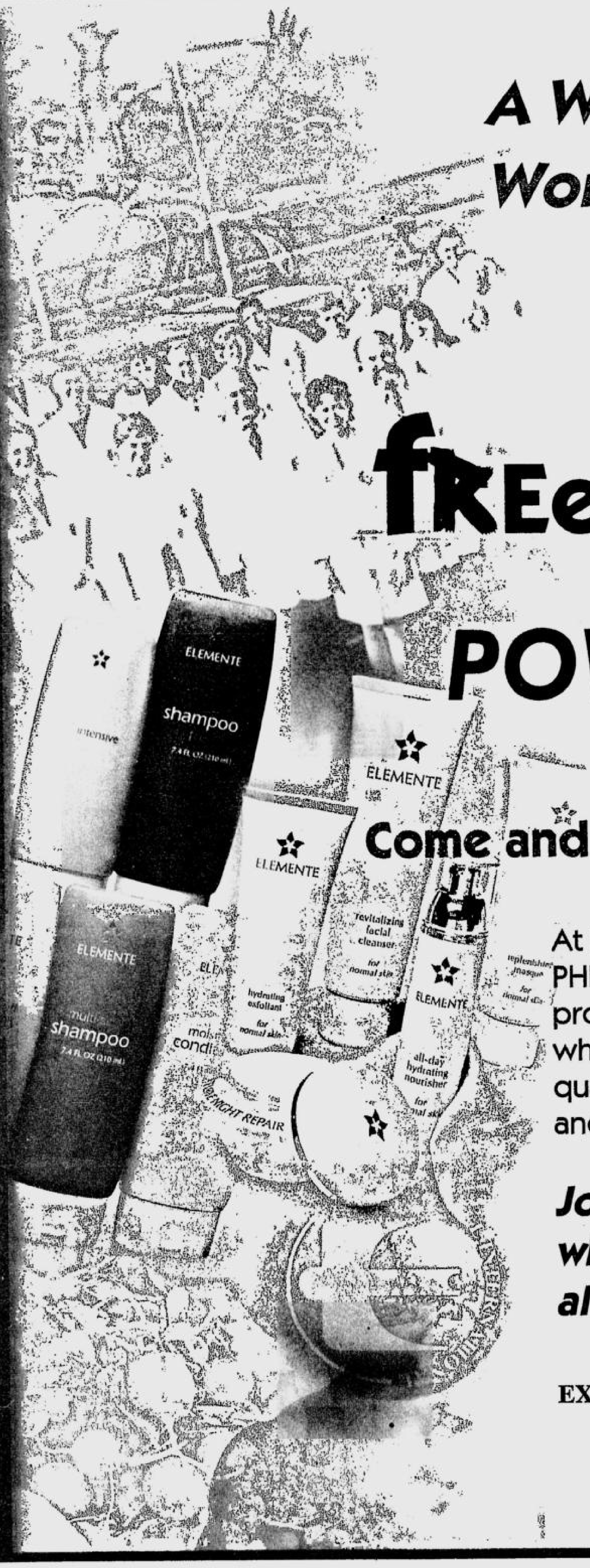

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TO PROMOTE better understanding between Asia and Europe, the foreign volunteers work closely with Filipinos for two weeks.

Volunteers from Asia, Europe work with disadvantaged youth

THIRTY-FIVE volunteers from Asia and Europe are in the Philippines for two weeks to work with socially disadvantaged youth.

The volunteers are participating in the Second Asia-Europe Youth Camp from March 18 to 31 in Manila.

The youth camp aims to raise awareness of the issues of socially marginalized children and youth in Asia and Europe, and to explore ways to improve their situation.

The camp also promotes better understanding and synergy between youth and volunteer organizations in the two regions.

The volunteers attend a series of seminars, engage in volunteer work with street children, and visit families in poor communities. The volunteers are working closely with their Filipino counterparts and non-government organizations.

This is the second Asia-Europe Youth Camp to be held. The first was held in China in 2000.

Cavite pols sign peace covenant

By Martin P. Marfil

IMUS, Cavite—Amid accusations and counter-accusations of electoral fraud and political violence, politicians of this province have forged a covenant binding themselves and their supporters to peaceful May 14 elections.

According to the agreement, criminal charges would be filed against candidates whose supporters violate the Omnibus Election Code by transporting firearms and ammunition, employing bodyguards and resorting to violence.

The candidates—for governor, congressmen, and mayors—vowed not to commit any act of bribery and threats.

Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla and his rival, Erineo Maliksi, on Wednesday afternoon signed the agreement at the Imus cathedral.

It was the second covenant signed nationwide. The Cavite police provincial director, Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, said the agreement would assure voters of peaceful elections.

"We do not really condone such (violations) and we can prove it through this agreement," Maliksi, the Magdalo candidate for governor, said in Filipino. "This is good because they (the rival camp) would also have to avoid such things."

Revilla, a reelectionist from Lakas, cited the solemnity of the signing of the covenant, pointing out that it was done in a church.

"Sometimes, we forget our promises," Revilla said. "In my case, I can vouch for myself and my supporters. We will fulfill our promise (not to commit electoral fraud and acts of violence)."

A HANDSHAKE further seals the agreement between Gov. Revilla (right) and Maliksi, his opponent in the May 14 elections. DENNIS SABANGAN

But amid the civility, the leaders of both camps still expressed wariness and accused each other of possible violations of the election code.

Maliksi said that on Tuesday, a fisherman from Bataan was gunned down in Rosario town by members of a task force that reportedly was supervised by Revilla's brother Strike.

"This should be investigated thoroughly by the authorities," Maliksi said, adding that the incident was a possible violation of election laws since it involved civilians armed with high-powered firearms.

Revilla denied this. He said that, in fact, a member of task force Kalikasan had tried to help the victim.

He said his camp actually lost a member when a barangay captain, Siso Dalman, was shot dead in Bacoor last Dec. 31.

Supt. Pagdilao said the case of the barangay captain had been investigated and police have identified the suspect as a rival of the slain Dalman in past elections.

"In a (way), that was political but it was on the barangay level and was motivated by their rivalry in the previous elections," Pagdilao said. "Whether it is related to the May elections…that has not cropped up."

In the Rosario incident, Pagdilao said that according to some witnesses, men in black vests shot and killed the fisherman from Bataan.

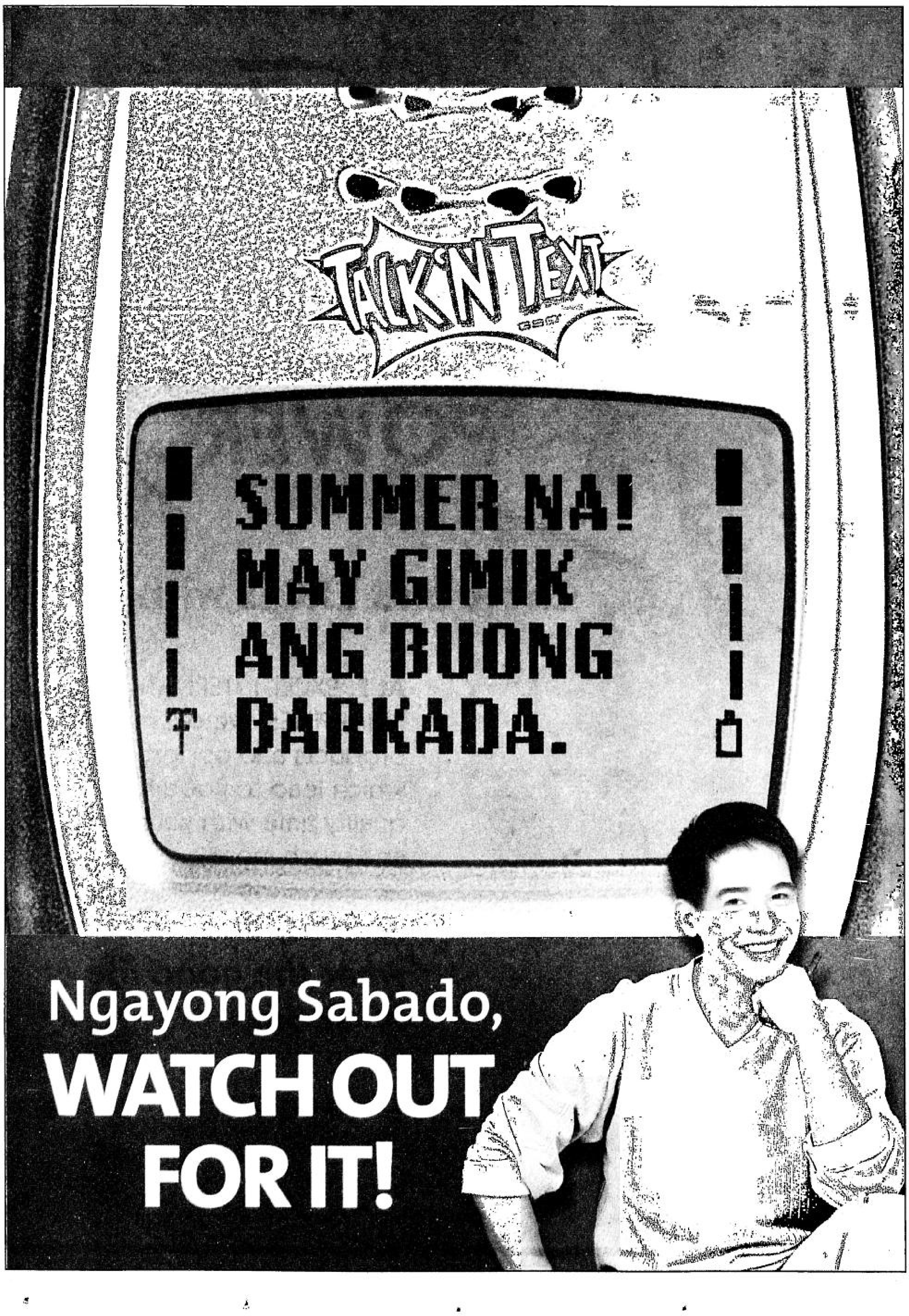
But he added that the supposed witnesses have not yet given any formal statements to investigators.

"It's premature to blame it on a particular group," Pagdilao said.

He admitted that political positions in Cavite have always been hotly contested.

In 1992, a town mayor who was a known supporter of former President Ramos was shot dead.

Three years later, the Ramos administration fielded former National Bureau of Investigation chief Epimaco Velasco, who won against the incumbent governor, Juanito Remulla.



CAMPAIGN TRAIL

DE VILLA FOR GABOR. Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, founding chair of Reporma, endorses former tourism secretary Mina T. Gabor as the party's official candidate in the lone congressional district of Pasay City. Gabor says her background in tourism and marketing has provided her with fresh insights on how to improve Pasay. Her vision for the city is "Bagong Buhay, Bagong Pasay." Gabor says she plans to work closely with the city government in mapping out a comprehensive development plan for Pasay.

22 Makati buildings found complying with Fire Code

MAKATI City capped the observance of Fire Prevention Month by naming 22 establishments in the Central Business District as "Fire Safety Compliant Buildings."

The buildings are the Ayala Life-FGU Center, Glorietta 2, 3 and 4, Multinational Bancorporation Center, Nestle Center, One Salcedo Place Condominium, Pacific Star, Ponte Salcedo Condominium, Rockwell-Amorsolo Square, Rockwell-Hidalgo Place, Rockwell-Luna Gardens, Rockwell-Rizal Tower, Shell House, 6750 Ayala Avenue Joint Venture, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Asia Tower Condominium, Regency at Salcedo Condominium, Three Salcedo Place Condominium, Tower One and Exchange Plaza, Twin Towers Condominium and Two Salcedo Place Condominium.

With 22 awardees, this year has the biggest number of winners of the Fire Safety Compliance Building award since it was instituted in 1999.

The plaques of recognition were given by Mayor Elenita S. Binay during ceremonies organized by the Makati Fire Safety Foundation Inc. at the Makati Park and Garden.

Binay said the increase in the number of recipients of the award proves that "more private institutions are making a conscious effort to put public safety above anything else."

She said the winners were chosen after the Makati Fire Department conducted a two-week inspection of all buildings in the CBD.

The winners were found to have fully complied with the Fire Code of the Philippines or PD No. 1096 which requires completeness, installation, periodic testing and maintenance of fire prevention and safety systems.

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Pido sings at Padi's

CONGRESSIONAL candidate and former Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr., Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and movie actress Lorna Tolentino recently led the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Quezon City's newest entertainment, casual dining and bar address, the new three-story Padi's Point Restaurant and Bar in Mindanao Avenue corner Congressional Avenue, Quezon City.

The nation's top music bands perform nightly at Padi's Mindave, with Parliament Syndicate returning tomorrow night, March 31.

In April, the popular Pido with Take One performs every Tuesday as the group is scheduled to launch its new album.

Other performers: Pop Cycles (Wednesdays), 9 p.m. (Thursdays), Escape and After Light (Fridays), Toy Symphony and Cool Spirit (Saturdays), For the Road (Sundays) and Red Sector A (Mondays).

In May, Freeverse leads other top bands that will perform weekly at Padi's Mindave.

Padi's Mindave welcomes new young bands to audition and plans to launch its "Battle of the New Bands" competition to help discover new talents.

For inquiries, call Padi's Mindave owner Wilson Lee Flores at 453-0080 or 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

Star Awards sponsor

YSA Beauty Soap, a new line of all-natural, organic soap products, which come in distinctive natural colors to complement their use for bathing and facial wash, was the sponsor of the Star of the Night in the recent 17th PMPC Star Awards for Movies held at the University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, Quezon City.

Lorna Tolentino, adjudged Female Star of the Night, wore a strapless aqua gown featuring impressive beaded bodice, with matching sheer tulle created by Danilo Franco. She was also a nominee for best actress in "Sugatang Puso."

Carlos Morales, voted Male Star of the Night and best actor for his performance in "Laro sa Baga," donned a double-breasted trench coat with matching pants in light blue color that recalls the fashion of Hollywood sci-fi blockbuster "The Matrix."

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
3	DTS	WEDDING PLANNER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
11	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
7	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
11	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820850

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM MEGAMALL 6331801 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	DTS	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9296462

1	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
4	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
7	DTS	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	QUILLS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER

SM SOUTHMALL 8060868 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
5	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
7	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS

SM ILOILO 3209427

1	ULTRA SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	QUILLS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BAIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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2 BAIT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE GIFT THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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5 QUILLS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 WEDDING PLANNER in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 CHOCOLAT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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2 WEDDING PLANNER in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BAIT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CHOCOLAT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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7 WEDDING PLANNER
8 BABAENG PUTIK
9 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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3 UHAW SA INIT

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2 UHAW SA INIT
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3 UHAW SA INIT
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5 TOTAL AIKIDO

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2 BABAENG PUTIK
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4 UHAW SA INIT
5 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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A UHAW SA INIT

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1 RESERVE
3 RESERVE

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1 THEY NEST
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 QUILLS
4 THE GIFT
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6 BABAENG PUTIK
7 BAIT
8 TOTAL AIKIDO
9 SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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2 UHAW SA INIT
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 BABAENG PUITK
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 THEY NEST
5 UHAW SA INIT
6 TOTAL AIKIDO
7 DRACULA 2000
8 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9 RESERVE

Commonwealth
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1 SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2 RESERVED
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 UHAW SA INIT
5 TOTAL AIKIDO
6 BABAENG PUTIK
7 THEY NEST
8 OOPS TEKA LANG

Ortigas
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1 TOTAL AIKIDO
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 BABAENG PUTIK
5 UHAW SA INIT
6 TOTAL AIKIDO
7 THEY NEST

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2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 TOTAL AIKIDO
4 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 BABAENG PUTIK

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 THEY NEST
2 TOTAL AIKIDO
3 UHAW SA INIT
4 BABAENG PUTIK
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 BABAENG PUTIK
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 TOTAL AIKIDO
4 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6 OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 BABAENG PUTIK
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 THE BAIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 WEDDING PLANNER
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 THE BAIT
4 SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 BABAENG PUTIK
4 TOTAL AIKIDO

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 WEDDING PLANNER
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 THE BAIT
4 SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5 OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 WEDDING PLANNER
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Olivarez T[illegible]tay
tel (046) [illegible]
1 RED PLANET
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 BAIT
2 SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3 WAY OF THE GUN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 OOPS TEKA LANG
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 UHAW SA INIT

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL. (049) 5314808
1 BAIT
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 OOPS TEKA LANG

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 TOO MUCH FLESH

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TOO MUCH FLESH
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 WOMAN ON TOP
4 MS. CONGENIALITY

Berma
tel 879.2168
1 UHAW SA INIT
2 TOTAL AIKIDO

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 BABAENG PUTIK
4 TOTAL AIKIDO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 PURPLE STORM
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 BAIT
4 THE GIFT

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4. BABAENG PUTIK
5. THE WEDDING PLANNER
6. SAVE THE LAST DANCE
7. THE GIFT

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3. BABAENG PUTIK
4. SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5. TOTAL AIKIDO
6. SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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2. ALMOST FAMOUS
3. OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4. HANNIBAL
5. CHOCOLAT
6. THE CONTENDER

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BABAENG PUTIK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OOPS TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	UHAW SA INIT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	UHAW SA INIT
MIRAMAR	IKAPITONG GLORIA/KAMASUTRA-2
ODEON	UHAW SA INIT
ODEON-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
ROBEN	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA - 7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BAIT
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	BABAENG PUTIK
CINEMA-3	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	QUILLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-6	PANABLA
CINEMA-7	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-8	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	PROOF OF LIFE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	THE GIFT
CINEMA-5	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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Tough shoots

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHAT have **Warren Beatty**, **Diane Keaton**, **Gary Shandling** and **Goldie Hawn** been up to since 1998? Making a movie. That's right, only one.

The film "Town and Country," was supposed to finish shooting in the regulation four months or so, but, as an awestruck observer notes, it's gone into a long and tedious overdrive, spawning multimillion-dollar rewrites, costly reshoots, one missed playdate after another, bad reports from the set of epic proportions, and some executive firings.

The movie is about marital crisis in midlife, which sounds like a good idea for a film starring Beatty and company. But test audiences nixed the original ending, so the script had to be revised several times to solve the problem.

A new round of test screenings indicated that the problem *had* been licked, but at a huge additional cost. Originally, the movie had been budgeted at $55 million, but the project's total expenditures now stand at $80 million.

Naturally, people involved in the film have been blaming each other for its woes, and many of them are pointing their fingers at Beatty, whom they describe as an excessive perfectionist. Of course, Beatty counters that all he wanted was to give viewers the best possible film product.

The film's "final-final" release date is mid-April. By that time, the people involved in "Town and Country" will finally find out if the finished film shall have been worth their three-year ordeal.

In another tough shoot, "Bridget Jone's Diary," **Renee Zellweger** had to put in extra hours to be credible as the movie's title character. The problem was that Bridget was British, while Zellweger was as American as apple pie.

But she so desperately wanted to play the plum role that she moved to London, worked in a publishing house like Bridget in the movie's story, worked on her accent—and stuffed herself full of all sorts of fattening food so she could add 15 pounds to her spare frame.

Why did she have to go to so much trouble when Brit actress like **Kate Winslet** and **Helena Bonham Carter** could have done the part with one eye closed? Because she sensed that it would be a big acting success for her, if she was able to pull it off.

Well, did she? The verdict on Zellweger's performance will be handed out when "Bridget Jones' Diary" opens on April 13.

Finally, veteran action star **Sylvester Stallone** has had to work like crazy to do justice to the dizzyingly fast and dangerous car-racing scenes in his comeback actioner, "Driven."

Stallone is no longer a spring chicken but he had to keep up with the young bucks like **Kip Pardue** who play the other speed freaks in the movie. Come April 27, we'll know if Stallone's umpteenth comeback is a success.

Programming highlights

APRIL on the HBO channel offers these programming highlights: April 4 at 9 p.m., "Christina Aguilera: My Reflection: presents the young singing star in a TV special.

April 21 at 9 p.m., "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge: A True Story." This is an original TV movie in which Emmy and Golden Globe award winner **Halle Berry** plays the legendary black singer and actress.

Dandridge was the first black actress to win a Best Actress nomination (in 1954, for her performance in "Carmen Jones"). HBO's new TV movie traces her rise to fame, and details of her love life, all the way to her death.

April 28 at 9 p.m., "The Iron Giant." In this animated feature film, a boy befriends an innocent alien robot that a paranoid government agent wants to destroy. This results in the robot discovering its "humanity" by unselfishly saving people from their own fears and prejudices.

The animated feature's lead characters are voiced by **Jennifer Aniston**, **Harry Connick Jr.** and **Vin Diesel**.

Loren takes over time slot vacated by Lim

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

PEOPLE may perceive Sen. **Loren Legarda**'s new primetime weekly program, "Kabalikat," to be in preparation for the 2004 elections. While she is being eyed to run for vice president, Loren refuses to talk about any definite plans.

She has been getting ready for the weekly episodes of her new docu-drama, which will premiere April 4, Wednesday, 9 p.m. on ABS-CBN. It marks Loren's entry into the primetime block.

"Kabalikat" takes over the time slot of "Katapat," which was hosted by former Manila Mayor **Alfredo Lim**. Loren's new program takes its place in the line of true-crime docu-dramas of ABS-CBN, including "Calvento Files" and "Katapat."

"I'd been doing the late-night news for almost 20 years before I went into politics," Loren offers. "This is my first time on primetime and I'm very excited to reach to a wider audience. It's an honor for me to occupy the highly rated time slot of 'Katapat.'"

Loren was immediately drawn to the concept of her new show, which aims to give solutions to the problems of ordinary citizens.

"The concept is good," she notes. "It's a docu-drama, or what **Charo Santos-Concio** calls reality TV, because it dramatizes real-life situations and offers solutions to problems. It also gives me a chance to continue what I've been doing and help other people."

However, in case people presume that "Kabalikat" will provide the only solution to their problems, Loren is quick to point out the show cannot solve all the problems presented to them.

"There may not be immediate solutions, but we want to give attention to every problem," she says. "We will refer people to the proper channels."

"Kabalikat" will also have an office at the ABS-CBN compound to attend to the complaints of the public.

The pilot episode is about a 14-year-old pregnant girl who was raped by three men in Batangas. Her grandmother didn't believe her and even called her a liar.

"Kabalikat" is directed by **Laurenti Dyogi**, with **Chris Violago** as head writer.

After a stellar career in broadcasting, Loren was elected to the Senate in 1998 with an overwhelming victory of 15 million votes. On TV, she hosted such programs as "Pep Talk," "The World Tonight," "The Inside Story" and "Earth Link."

When she became senator, she hosted the monthly documentary "Loren," which will stop airing after May.

As a legislator, Loren has addressed some of the most critical issues and concerns of Philippine society. She uses her name, Loren, to encapsulate these concerns—Law and Order; Rights of women, youth and children; Education, environment and employment; and Nationalism.

She also launched a livelihood program that aims to provide skills, entrepreneurial training, job placement and small-scale financial assistance to unemployed and disadvantaged citizens. Under this program, she has provided scholarships to more than 400 out-of-school youths.

"That's why helping other people through my new program is not completely new to me because I've been doing it in private life," Loren says. "This is just an extension of the work I've been doing in the office.

"Three years in the Senate requires me to do legislative work. I'm not supposed to rescue generals from the mountains or give doleouts.

"But people come to me for help and I cannot turn them down. These are things that are not expected of a senator, but it's not my nature to turn my back on challenges. In my private capacity, I go beyond the actual work of senators."

Flak for RPN 9

WE got a lot of feedback about our column on RPN 9's telecast of the Oscars last Monday.

Kris Aquino sent me text messages while she was watching the RPN 9 broadcast that morning and said she agreed with what I wrote. "Exaggerated *ang* commercials *sa* 9. But I love the opening monologue of **Steve Martin**."

Reader **Eric Capacia**, of Ayala Aon Risk Services Inc., sent an e-mail to the INQUIRER to complain how RPN 9 milked the airing of the Academy Awards to make money.

"It's not just recovering air time cost," Capacia wrote. "When I got home that night, the replay was even longer and extended even after midnight. It was very clear that the station wanted to make money at the expense of their viewers."

Another complaint came from **Cristina Angeles** of Del Pan, Sta. Ana, Manila: "The Internet was more reliable. RPN 9 shouldn't have announced that it was showing the ceremony live because the telecast was delayed by more than an hour."

From **Angeline de Jesus** of Davao: "We have no access to cable, but even if we do, you're right, we had no choice but to stick with Channel 9. Can they please explain why they banned the cable telecast of the Oscars?"

Even the editorial staff in our office was taunting the Oscar show on RPN 9. After 2 p.m. and the best picture hadn't been announced yet, the guys in the sports section said jokingly, "*Lasing na si* **Julia Roberts**, *'di pa tapos ang palabas.*"

LEGARDA. Excited to be on primetime TV with her new program, "Kabalikat"

Crippling strike looms over Hollywood

LOS ANGELES—Sure, Hollywood celebrated at Sunday's Academy Awards show. But many of those entertainers might not be working several months from now.

The prospect of double strikes by writers and actors later this spring was on many minds during show business's golden night.

Screenwriter-producer-director Ernest Lehman, who claimed an Honorary Oscar at the ceremony, dedicated his award to the writers' cause.

"We have suffered anonymity far too often," Lehman said in his acceptance speech. "I appeal to all movie critics and feature writers to please always bear in mind that a film production begins and ends with a screenplay."

Backstage, Lehman—whose writing credits include "Sabrina" and "North by Northwest"—said he held back some opinions because he didn't want to create tension during a night of celebration.

"I decided I did not want to make tonight's speech a soapbox speech," he said.

Many referred to a strike as if it were inevitable.

"I have not studied the details and the movements daily on the strike and the issues," writer-director Cameron Crowe said when asked about the strike issue. "I know that I need to do some studying up quick."

Crowe won an Oscar for best original screenplay, for "Almost Famous."

The Writers Guild of America argues that years of unfair contracts have prevented its members from benefiting from the explosive growth of videocassettes, cable TV and foreign markets.

Early negotiations between the WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers broke down earlier this month.

The contract for the WGA's 11,500 members expires May 1.

In negotiations, studios have rejected what they consider unrealistic union demands, saying they ignore the realities of a slowing economy and shrinking audiences.

This week, DreamWorks SKG executive Jeffrey Katzenberg said that meeting the WGA's demands even halfway could bankrupt the studios.

The Directors Guild of America also has objected to the WGA's demands for more creative control over moviemaking. *AP*

Boy Abunda's show on ANC marks 1st year

"PRIVATE Conversations with Boy Abunda" celebrates its first anniversary on March 30, 9 p.m. on the ABS-CBN News Channel 21.

The show was conceptualized as an intimate conversation with people who have interesting and fascinating stories. It took off with the airing of a private tête-à-tête with world-renowned New Age guru Deepak Chopra. Initial feedback of the show was tremendously encouraging.

In the succeeding months, "Private Conversations" featured noted personalities such as Kris Aquino, Nene Pimentel, Raul Roco, Inno Sotto, Vicky Belo, Gemma Cruz-Araneta, Maria Ressa, Loren Legarda, Pilar Pilapil, Josie Natori, Shiela Coronel, Ricky Lee, Ramon Tulfo, Katrina Legarda, Rajo Laurel, Juan Flavier, Juan Ponce Enrile, Joker Arroyo, Manny Villar, Rene de Villa, Eggie Apostol, Rodolfo Biazon and Luli Arroyo, among others.

The program also talked to controversial guests with explosive stories. It became a forum for in-depth discussion of public and personal issues, while maintaining its intimate format.

Post People Power II, "Private Conversations" was the first to feature Chavit Singson, in a full-hour conversation.

The show made another milestone when it had the first live studio interview of Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

"Private Conversations" is directed by Bobby Garcia. Executive producer is Nikka Santos, director for TV Production ANC News Channel is David Celdran.

Associate producers are Jess Liwanag and Gasper Gozo, production supervisor is Arlyn Datulio, segment producers are Jona Cham and Rhobee Pilares, technical director is Levi Aguilar, VTR editors are Jon-Jon Banaag and Roland Diaz, video researcher is Gay Repollo, floor director is Cris Dayao and production assistant is Andy de Mesa.

Special assistant to Boy Abunda are Bettina Aspillaga, Ryan Brusola and Almed Garcia.

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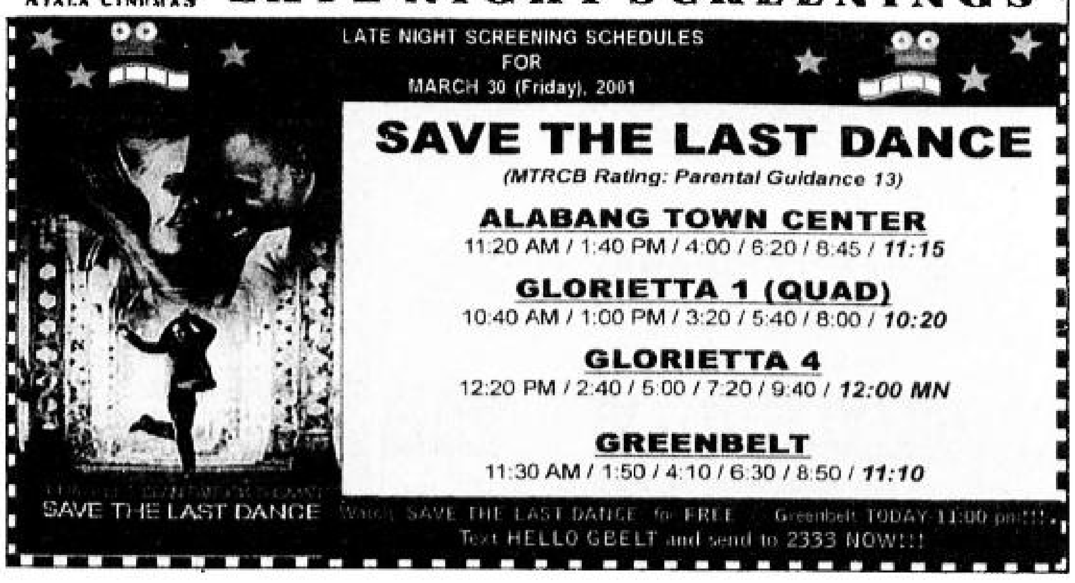
102 DALMATIANS - G 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00	CHOCOLAT - P 13 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:35, 11:05	CROUCHING TIGER - P 13 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00
THE GIFT - P 13 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P 13 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20



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GLORIETTA 1 (QUAD)
10:40 AM / 1:00 PM / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00 / 10:20
GLORIETTA 4
12:20 PM / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40 / 12:00 MN
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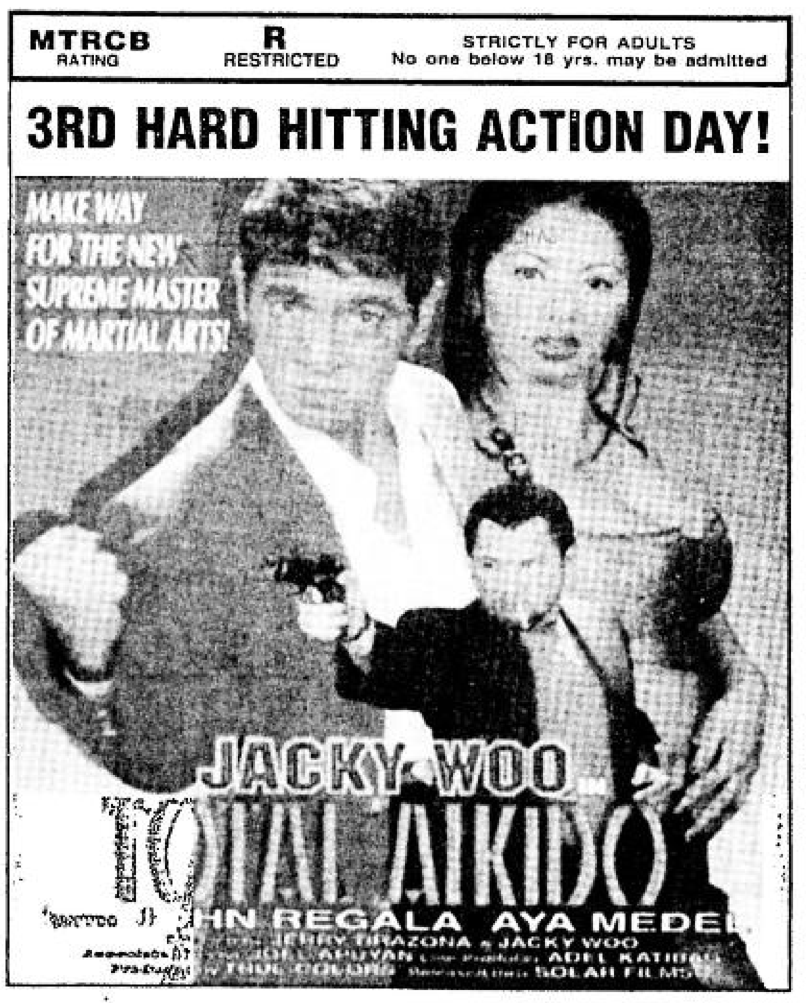

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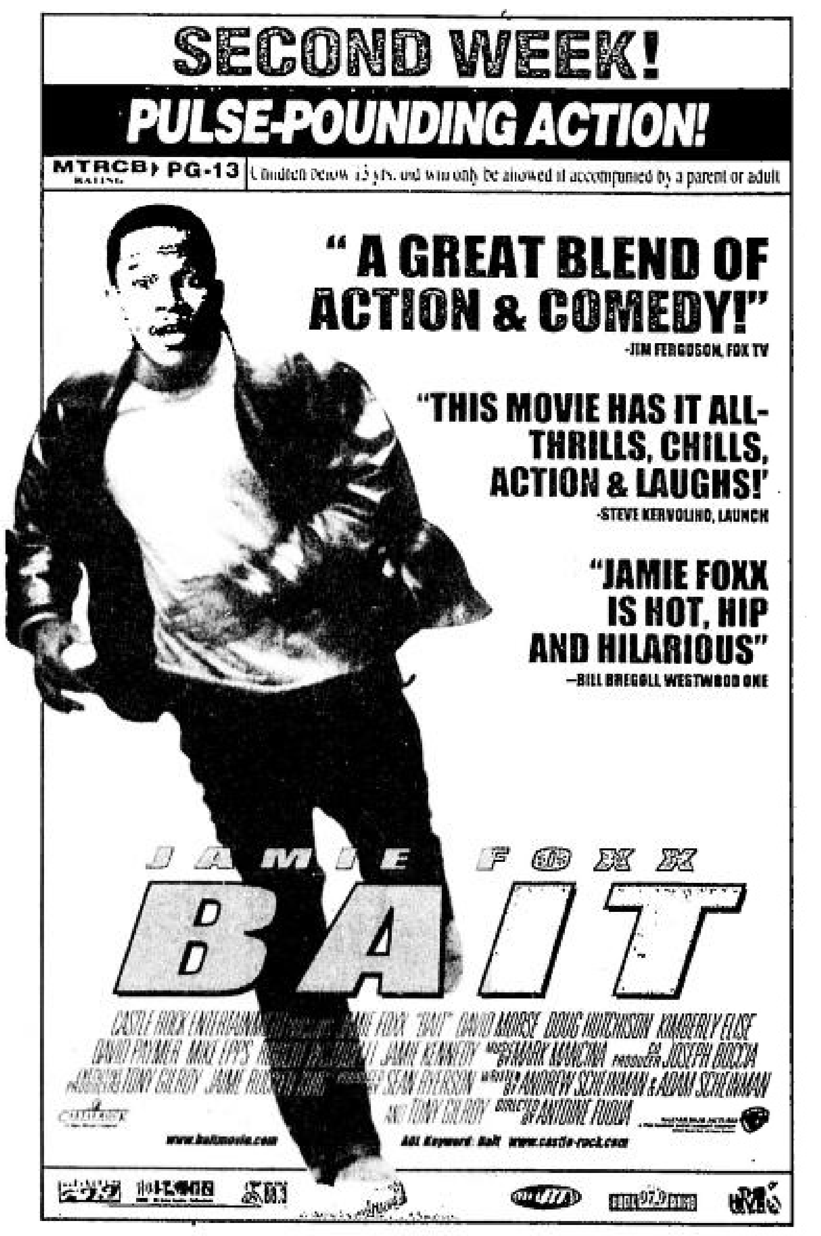

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Even the best of intentions can be used against you

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

SUNDAY'S Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down section of the INQUIRER had a blind item that was so obviously about me that I've decided to just face the issue head on and be done with it.

I take this opportunity to defend myself against the baseless and malicious "behavior" that was attributed to me.

If you failed to read that particular item, this is the gist of the story: I had invited myself to the party of my unnamed cast-mate, and since her home wasn't in an affluent part of town, she was hesitant about having me over. When I arrived, I supposedly took it upon myself to tour her home and I then I uttered the very insensitive remark, "*Ang linis pala ng* house *ninyo kahit* poor *lang kayo*."

The item further chastises me for not knowing "*kagandahang asal and pagmamagandang loob*" which are Filipino traits "worth dying for."

The event mentioned was the birthday lunch of comedian **Marissa Sanchez**, my former "Pwedeng-Pwede" cast-mate, held sometime during the last quarter of 1999 (yes, nearly a year and a half ago) in her family's Tondo residence.

It was on a Wednesday, I recall, because we used to tape every Tuesday and I remember that I had gone live on "Today with Kris Aquino" at 11 a.m., and Marissa's sister had picked me up in my studio so that we could convoy to their place.

The "Pwedeng-Pwede's" tapings would end at 4 or 5 a.m. and I barely had any sleep, but since Marissa and I had bonded on the show, I really made the effort to go to her lunch.

This is what exactly transpired. I may be "tactless" but I know that I can never be accused of being a liar.

Isn't it part of our Pinoy culture, no matter our level of affluence, that we are constantly apologizing to houseguests, whether because the place is "*mainit, masikip, maingay*" or because even if the food is abundant and delicious, "Sorry, *ha, 'yun lang ang hinanda namin, baka 'di mo magustuhan*."

Marissa was no different. She kept saying that she couldn't believe that I had made the effort to go to her lunch, and in fact I was the only cast member who was able to attend.

The lunch as I recall was delicious, and I praised her stepmother's cooking countless times. After eating, I asked Marissa if she could show me around, especially because I wanted to see her Winnie the Pooh collection. Marissa at that point was nearly separated and she was telling me that she was just saving money so that she could move into her own home, one that she would no longer be renting, but own for herself.

At present she already is living in a new home, bought with her hard-earned money. I remember commenting, when I saw that she was given the master bedroom, how truly hospitable her stepmother and half-siblings were.

After the tour, I asked if it would be possible for me to use the restroom. Marissa joked to her stepmom, "*Naku*, Mama *sana malinis ang* CR *natin*, Kris Aquino *ang gagamit*." After using their bathroom, I told Marissa to quit being *praning* because the bathroom was super-clean, as well as the whole house.

SANCHEZ

I even remember telling her I went to her birthday because I genuinely liked her, and I couldn't care less where she lived, because it's her friendship that I cared about. On our next taping, Marissa had a very sweet thank-you card for me, as well as some Hello Kitty trinkets.

That's one of the reasons that I found her endearing. She was a genuinely sweet friend. End of story.

I've always led such a busy life I really wouldn't volunteer my presence in any event, and I choose my invitations carefully and attend only events of people who are meaningful to me.

I have been exposed to all sectors of society since I was campaigning for my dad in the 1978 Laban campaign when I was just 7 years old. I've been in the slums of Metro Manila, and at an early age my mom instilled in me the ability to show genuine gratitude when those with very little would go out of their way to share what they had with us, whether it was a glass of soft drink or a hard-boiled egg.

I know what it's like to spend time inside a jail cell in Fort Bonifario, which is the farthest you can get from a luxury condominium, since that was where my dad lived when he was incarcerated during the Martial Law years until our US exile in May 1980.

People who know me know that I've always been conscientious about saying "thank you."

The way I see it, Marissa may have used me as a "punchline" in one of her stand-up acts, or to spice up some of her anecdotes about our friendship. I don't believe she intentionally wanted to do me harm, but perpetuating the myth that I'm a spoiled, tactless, rich bitch makes for a lot more comedy than just relating things sans embellishment.

Having me say "*Ang linis ng bahay ninyo kahit* poor *lang kayo*" will definitely draw more reaction.

Unfortunately, I was judged without being given a fair hearing.

We all have, at one time or another, experienced that even the best of intentions and the sincerest offering of friendship can still be used against you, by people who just want additional proof, even if falsified, of what they are convinced is patently undesirable in you.

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STORYLAND, SM SOUTHMALL STORYLAND, SM CITY FAIRVIEW	Finger Painting / Sponge / Magic Painting / African Poster Design / Body Portrait / Collage Making / T-shirt painting / Printing	V. SEVILLA
SM CITY BACOOR STORYLAND, SM CITY FAIRVIEW	Children's Theater / Art Workshop / Basic Acting / Acting for Theater / Acting for TV / Film / Commercial / Taebo / Ballet for Kids & Adults / Street Jazz / Ballroom Dancing / Voice Lesson	GANTIMPALA (GTF) THEATER FOUNDATION INC

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FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
B1
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **CORRIE S. NARISMA**, Assistant Editor

Equitable PCI
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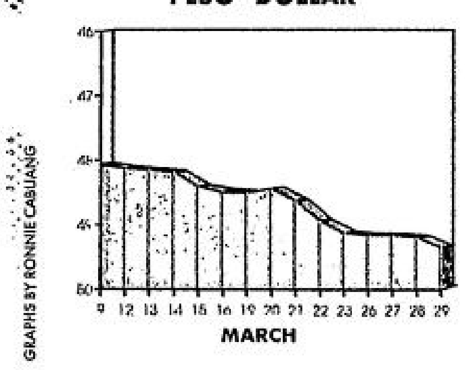
RP seen as haven for tax evaders

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 49.355= $1

As of 5 p.m.,
March 29, 2001

¥ 123.40 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 123.40 as of 5 p.m., March 29, 2001

GOLD:$260.30/260.80
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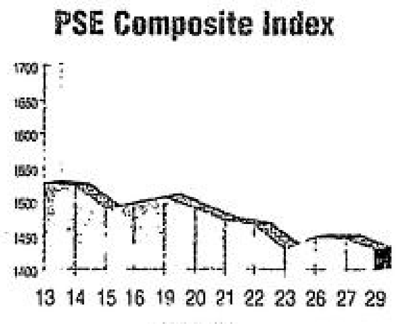
March 29, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 1.5%



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices fell 1.5 percent yesterday, pulled down by losses in overseas markets.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 21.39 points to 1,430.16. Volume plunged to 171.07 million shares worth P341.27 million from 370.46 million shares worth P475.04 million on Wednesday.

"We're basically taking the cue from what's going on in the external markets," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities Inc.

"The United States was down and Japan is down right now so that's drag-

SHARES/ B2

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has named the Philippines as an emerging haven for tax evaders.

It said this was pulling down the country's growth potential and proving to be a stumbling block to fiscal consolidation.

"We believe the Philippines needs to overhaul its tax collection regime as a prelude to any meaningful economic reform. Any structural improvement to the country's fiscal sector and to its savings and investment rates will depend on the overhaul of the system," Morgan Stanley said in its report.

The investment bank blamed distortions caused by tax perks granted to companies as a major factor in the government's poor tax collection.

"In our view, the Philippines can ill-afford such an inefficient tax collection system or to perpetuate its tax haven status," the investment bank said.

Only the other day, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo disclosed that the government lost more than P100 billion from tax evaders last year and about P70 billion of this amount had been documented by the Department of Finance.

Romulo said the figure did not even include the estimated P124 billion in foregone revenue from the tax incentives being doled out by state agencies like the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

The government's revenue collection has fallen to 14.4 percent of gross national product last year from 19.4 percent of GNP in 1994 following the implementation of the comprehensive tax reform program, "which proved to be a short-term fillip for the government."

However, the tax effort ratio has never exceeded 20 percent and this implied the government has lost potential tax revenue of about 10 percent of GNP yearly during the last 10 years, according to Morgan Stanley.

"This has resulted in the government being unable to invest adequate sums into the country's infrastructure and forced it to go into debt. The government has been unable to retire any of this debt despite average GNP growth of 3.5 percent a year since 1990," it said in its study.

The investment bank said it believed poor tax collection was also

RP/ B2

Canon skips RP, picks Vietnam as plant site

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is dejected over a decision by Canon Inc., the world's leading maker of copiers, to choose Vietnam over the Philippines as its regional production site mainly due to Manila's inferior incentives.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the "country just lost an investment opportunity that was already 90 percent done."

He said Canon Copiers backed out at the last minute after Vietnam dangled a 10-year income tax holiday to the New York-based copier giant which the Philippines could not match. Hobbled by a mediocre incentive package, the Philippines lost a multimillion-dollar investment and at least 300 new jobs.

"We could only offer up to eight years under existing laws. We really need incentives to compete," Roxas said.

Congress has to share much of the blame for the loss of the Canon project because it failed to amend the Omnibus Investments Code last year, which would have boosted the income tax breaks to a maximum 12 years. This would have put the Philippines' at par with other countries in the region.

The DTI is again facing an uphill battle in pushing for more fiscal perks considering the government budget deficit woes.

While the Department of Finance disclosed that P124 billion in potential revenues have been lost due to these fiscal perks, Roxas said these were bloated by tax scams and other leakages and should not be attributed mostly to foregone revenues from incentives.

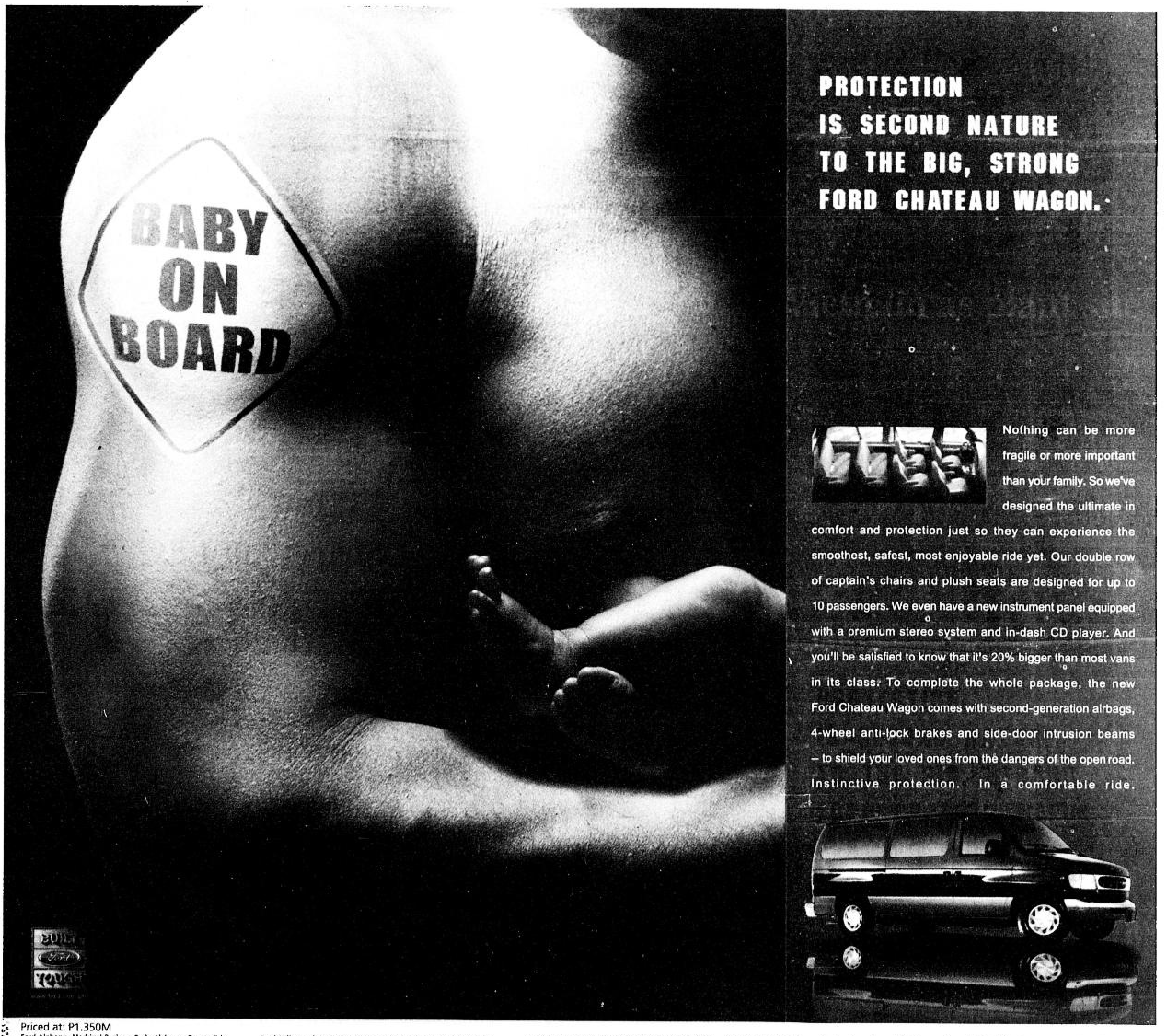
Roxas said that the foregone revenues should be weighed against other benefits in terms of job creation, dollar earnings and technology transfer that emanate from investments coming into the country.

Roxas said incentives should not be seen as a revenue loss but as a revenue gain. He said critics of fiscal perks fail to consider the revenues generated by the new jobs created by the new investors, the new construction activities, and the new sales turnover.

He said that from a regional perspective, the country's incentives were not that excessive and were in fact lagging behind other countries that were more developed.

Roxas said incentives were necessary to make up for whatever disadvantages the country might have against other countries that are also being considered by prospective investors.

He said incentives have become even more important since the country was not only competing for investments with other Asean countries but also with China, which has emerged as the Western countries most favored investment destination.



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Bourse moves to list IOUs issued by gov't agencies

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is moving toward the listing on its fixed income board of the asset-backed securities of government agencies such as Pag-Ibig Fund, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

In a press briefing, PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said that after the listing of the government's P30.35 billion worth of small-denominated treasury bonds early this year, the exchange was working to further diversify the instruments which could be traded on the fixed income exchange.

Earlier, First Metro Investment Corp., the investment house of local banking giant Metrobank, has also proposed the listing of the government's P8 billion worth of "privatization" or "progress" bonds.

"These are the possibilities we are looking at. We are now in discussion with Pag-Ibig for the listing of their asset-backed securities. And we have also touched base with the new National Treasurer (Sergio Edeza)," Garcia said.

Once plans to securitize the assets of Pagcor and SBMA have been finalized, Garcia also said these could be listed on the exchange.

Securitization is the process of distributing risk by putting debt instruments into a pool, then issuing new securities backed by this pool.

Asset-backed securities (ABS) refer to bonds or notes supported by a loan paper or accounts receivable originated by banks, credit card companies or other providers or credit and then "enhanced" by a bank's letter of credit or by an insurance coverage provided by an institution other than the issuer. Typically, the originator of the loan or accounts receivable paper sells it to a specially created trust, which repackages it as securities which are then underwritten by brokerage firms and re-offered to the public.

With regards to housing securitization, the government's earlier plan was to securitize about P80 billion worth of government receivables from the Pag-Ibig Fund and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. Proceeds from the securitization package will be plowed back to the economy in the form of fresh funds for the housing sector.

Meanwhile, the Department of Finance is also keen on the plan to raise a super fund worth between $3 billion and $5 billion from the securitization of assets of the Subic naval and Clark air bases in Northern Luzon.

In the case of Pagcor, there was a plan to raise fresh funds by securitizing future earnings of this profitable casino monopoly. This strategy will allow the government to get future earnings of Pagcor upfront which it could use for its present needs.

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo confers with CSFB Pacific Region chair Stephen Stonefield during the Asian Investment Conference 2001 in Hong Kong.

Credit Suisse bullish on RP economic outlook

GLOBAL investment banking giant Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) has expressed optimism over prospects of accelerating economic and business recovery in the Philippines following policy reforms being implemented by the present administration.

CSFB Pacific Region chair Stephen Stonefield said CSFB's positive outlook on the Philippines has been boosted "by the evident resolve of the Macapagal administration to strengthen its fiscal and monetary reforms."

Stonefield said CSFB's positive assessment of Philippine prospects was bolstered by the report made by Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo to the CSFB Asian Investment Conference in Hong Kong on Wednesday.

Romulo cited the Philippines' "improved macroeconomic fundamentals," the recovery of the stock exchange, and the robust investment climate as shown by project approvals by the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Romulo also noted the country's healthy image in the international business community as evidenced by vastly improved confidence ratings given by foreign business groups to the Macapagal administration.

CSFB's Stonefield, host of the conference, said the current directions of the administration, particularly the finance department, "augur well for the speedy return of business and consumer confidence."

He cited the government's initiative to bring down the country's fiscal deficit and to institutionalize reforms in the tax structure and revenue collecting institutions, adding that the effort to restore balanced fiscal position "would do much to further improve the country's image in the international investor community."

PK Basu, chief economist for Southeast Asia at CSFB, said international investors were hopeful that some of Romulo's tax reform proposals would help spur the development of the equities and bond markets.

Basu also praised Romulo's position on the continuing policy of privatization. He said such policy was among the triggers of the country's landmark economic performance from 1994 to 1997 and which encouraged the rapid influx of international investments into the country during that time.

Romulo said the government expects to raise some P7 billion by disposing government assets.

During the Hong Kong conference, Romulo said the Philippine government would pursue further reforms in the banking sector.

He said President Macapagal would certify as priority several bills amending the charter of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to further strengthen the supervisory powers of this agency.

He also said the government would remain tough against money laundering. Proposed laws against the practice will be enacted soon, he added.

RP . . .

(From page B1)

caused by an overburdened judicial system and tax collectors' discretionary powers over taxpayers.

Morgan Stanley said the Philippines' low savings and investment rates were a result of a "poorly structured investment incentives and a generally poor macro investment climate created by an under funded public sector."

The country's savings ratio to gross domestic product was a mere 17.6 percent while investment was also a measly 20.9 percent of GDP.

This compares to Singapore's savings ratio of 48.2 percent of GDP, Malaysia's 41.9 percent, Thailand's 35 percent, and Indonesia's 28.7 percent.

Also because of poor revenue collection last year and in previous years, the budget deficit of the national government swelled to P136.1 billion in 2000 from P111.7 billion a year ago.

Romulo said tax leaks last year from the value-added tax alone amounted to about P45 billion or half of what the BIR should have collected from this source. The DOF also discovered an P14-billion leakage in taxes on banks' interest income on deposits.

Other items that contributed to the revenue leakage were P1.3 billion from cigarettes, P1.3 billion from fringe benefits, P4.9 billion from minimum corporate income tax, P1.2 billion from non-life insurance, P500 million from agriculture and the fisheries modernization act.

DISCLOSURES

MUSIC Telecom, a subsidiary of Philippine-listed **Music Corp.**, showcased early last month the much anticipated call recording technologies and enhancements at this year's CT Expo in Los Angeles, California. The main attraction was the NTI (network telephone integration) technology.

* * *

THE BOARD of **ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.** declared a cash dividend of P0.60 to stockholders of record as of April 25 payable on or before May 25.

* * *

SOLID Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 8, 3 p.m., at the Turf Room, Manila Polo Club, No. 17 McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. The record date is April 2.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. said the termination of its distribution agreements with **Nabisco Philippines Inc.** and **Quaker Oats Asia Inc.** was an offshoot of the recent worldwide acquisition by **Philip Morris** of Nabisco and likewise the change in ownership of Quaker Oats. This will allow Alaska to focus more on growing its core milk business.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp., one of **Urban Bank**'s three biggest depositors, is keeping its option open, including joining a consortium to rehabilitate the bank.

* * *

WILLIAM, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 27, 1 p.m., at the Cebu Plaza Hotel, Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Fairmont Holdings Inc.** authorized the company to enter an agreement with **Megaworld Corp.** for the development of the Malate commercial project. Megaworld shall provide the financing and development of the project.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 19, 9:30 a.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati City.

* * *

SUN Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 25, 11 a.m. (Toronto time), at the Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Mar. 29, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.128796	1.000000	49.2080
Japan	Yen	0.009232	0.008179	0.4025
United Kingdom	Pound	1.622305	1.437200	70.7217
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144726	0.128213	6.3091
Switzerland	Franc	0.653617	0.579039	28.4934
Canada	Dollar	0.722014	0.639632	31.4750
Singapore	Dollar	0.629030	0.557258	27.4216
Australia	Dollar	0.556715	0.493194	24.2691
Bahrain	Dinar	2.994312	2.652661	130.5321
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.300980	0.266638	13.1207
Brunei	Dollar	0.629556	0.557724	27.4445
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000096	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025315	0.022427	1.1036
UAE	Dirham	0.307339	0.272272	13.3980
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000769	0.0378
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.885900	43.5934
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.452953	22.2889
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135055	6.6458
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.402004	19.7818
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064381	3.1681
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021961	1.0807
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000458	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148998	7.3319
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004419	0.2175
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005324	0.2620
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021961	1.0807
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.124861	55.3522

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, March 29, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69	69.5	36,000
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	600
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	16	16	16	16	2,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50.5	50.5	49.5	50	41,300
Global Business Bank Inc.	80	80	80	80	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	223	225	221	224	61,190
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	50
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	45.5	45.5	79,800
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	29	29.5	15,500
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp A	25	25	25	25	200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	380
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1200	1190	1200	5,240
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	33,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	855	870	855	870	4,610
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	42	42	42	42	3,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	400,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	695	700	695	695	47,040
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.046	44,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	43	43	42	42	6,900
Manila Electric Co. B	52	52	49.5	49.5	823,000
Petron Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.6	1,765,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	35,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.08	2,937,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	350,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	430,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	6,300
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	30	30.5	28.5	29.5	1,259,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.68	1.56	1.68	83,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47.5	47	47	588,800
San Miguel Corp. B	53	53	51	51	146,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	273,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	120,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	1,204,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	762,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.87	0.85	0.87	50,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.42	75,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	360,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	13	13	13	13	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.36	2.4	8,215,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.105	0.125	0.105	0.12	1,440,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	700,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	0.96	0.96	175,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.92	1.94	59,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	171,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	120,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11	11	11	87,600
Ipeople Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
Ipeople Inc. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	3,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	750,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	20,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	130,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	170,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.38	0.31	0.38	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
Music Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	363,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	350,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.085	0.085	8,500,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt.Corp.	20	20	20	20	3,353,900
Pryce Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.3	0.33	850,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.25	12	11.25	12	115,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	4,300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	2,260,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.54	0.49	0.54	80,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	42.5	43	42.5	43	92,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.041	0.041	0.025	0.025	1,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	3,551,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.3	0.31	5,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.82	1.88	5,860,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	150,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	180,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	746,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0046	.0046	.0046	.0046	22,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0046	.0046	.0046	.0046	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	.0044	.0044	.0044	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	.0044	.0044	.0044	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.28	.28	.26	.26	1,400,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.28	.29	.25	.25	2,550,000
Pacifica	0.015	.015	.015	.015	2,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	.17	.17	.17	900,000

Shares fall 1.5%

(From page B1)

ging the market," he said.

Brewer San Miguel Corp. saw its "A" shares fall 50 centavos to P47 while its "B" shares fell P2 to P51.

San Miguel subsidiary La Tondeña Distillers Inc. also plunged P3.50 to P29.50.

San Miguel and La Tondeña earlier announced that they were selling their non-alcoholic beverage brands to Coca-Cola Co. of the United States.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. remained unchanged at P695.

The Manila Electric Co. saw its "A" shares fall by P2 as its "B" shares fell by P3 to hit P42 and P49.50 respectively. *AFP*

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The Fubon Group and the Malaysians are reportedly working out a tie-up while venture capital Newbridge is bent on investing in any local bank by itself.

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Ultimately, UPS' e-commerce strategy still rests on the bedrock of its bricks-and-mortar business. While the future may lie in the world of bits and bytes, the growth of UPS' e-commerce enterprise still relies on the company's core business of ground and air express delivery. Fortunately, UPS has got its core enterprise routine down pat. Total annual revenues amounted to $29.8 billion last year, a whopping 10.1 percent increase over 1999 figures. For its part, operating profits for the same year soared to $4.5 billion, a 15.5 percent increase from 1999 results. A magnificent performance for a company that started off as a five-man operation 94 years ago.

Pundits Say Aye!

UPS' commitment to e-commerce has been recognized not just by its customers, but by pundits as well. In April 2000, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management honored the express delivery service with the Clicks and Mortar Award for its pioneering business-to-business and business-to-consumer initiatives. MIT cites UPS as "the company that has made the greatest advancement in integrating both physical and online business practices." In May 2000, UPS was named in Red Herring magazine's list of the "100 most important companies in the world." Red Herring stated that the company "offers the world's most extensive package delivery network. When coupled with more than $11 billion it has spent on technology in the last decade, it has a formidable presence in more than 200 countries and territories."

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Ultimately, UPS' e-commerce strategy still rests on the bedrock of its bricks-and-mortar business. While the future may lie in the world of bits and bytes, the growth of UPS' e-commerce enterprise still relies on the company's core business of ground and air express delivery. Fortunately, UPS has got its core enterprise routine down pat. Total annual revenues amounted to $29.8 billion last year, a whopping 10.1 percent increase over 1999 figures. For its part, operating profits for the same year soared to $4.5 billion, a 15.5 percent increase from 1999 results. A magnificent performance for a company that started off as a five-man operation 94 years ago.

Pundits Say Aye!

UPS' commitment to e-commerce has been recognized not just by its customers, but by pundits as well. In April 2000, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management honored the express delivery service with the Clicks and Mortar Award for its pioneering business-to-business and business-to-consumer initiatives. MIT cites UPS as "the company that has made the greatest advancement in integrating both physical and online business practices." In May 2000, UPS was named in Red Herring magazine's list of the "100 most important companies in the world." Red Herring stated that the company "offers the world's most extensive package delivery network. When coupled with more than $11 billion it has spent on technology in the last decade, it has a formidable presence in more than 200 countries and territories."

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For the past 15 years, ADD Research Paints and Chemicals, Inc. has consistently adhered to its commitment to maintain a high level of excellence in all aspects of its operations. The tangible evidence to this is the recent ISO 9002 certification which places the company at par with over 270,000 registered companies in 143 countries independently iassessed and approved as quality organization.

ISO 9002 is part of a series of international standards consisting of 19 elements and guidelines for establishing and implementing a Quality Management System. Functional responsibilities and authority are clearly defined leading to an over all operational effectiveness. Indicators are improved productivity, improved quality and improved customer relations. The processes in assessing and approving all management policies, manufacturing procedures, sales and marketing plans and programs, plants and facilities, human resource and research and development, were conducted by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance of Manila (LRQA), an internationally accredited certification body. LRQA is a subsidiary of Lloyd's Register (LR), which was established 200 years ago as the world's leading independent classification and inspection authority for shipping and engineering.

The ARPCI ISO team was composed of Reginald S. Dumrique, Quality Management Representative(QMR) and Chairman, Internal Quality Audit (IQA); Gianna J. Lorenzo, IQA Assistant Chairperson and Documentation Committee chairperson; Anna Marie D. Canta, Training Committee Chairperson and Danilo S. Tangtang, IQA Lead Auditor.

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ADD Research Paints and Chemicals Inc.'s ability to keep pace with rapid changes in market requirement has allowed it to steadily maintain a niche in the paint industry. Established in 1986 as a trading company by Alejo and Juanita Dumrique, the company has grown steadily and evolved into a manufacturing corporation. The company employs a total approach to the surface coating business. It produces world-class coatings, paints, adhesives and chemicals developed and tested to satisfy the most demanding applications and provide customers added value through full-service technical and consultancy services.

ADD Research manufactures high quality coatings for architectural, furniture and automotive industries. Its products are subjected to a rigid quality control system to ensure that specifications meet the most discriminating requirements of both local and foreign markets. Proof of this globally accepted quality is the use of the firm's coatings by some of the country's top exporters and key industry players. 24-K furniture finishes are being used by a number of major furniture manufacturers, some of which are recipients of the Golden Shell Award for their export lines. ADD's architectural and decorative coatings are patronized by the largest housing developer in the Southeast Asian region, and world-class hotels and resorts. Ultra Gloss coatings are used in the maintenance of international-route vessels: For production-line coatings. ADD also supplies the OEM requirements of a major motorcycle manufacturer and automotive assembler.

ADD Research's marketing and sales head quarters are stationed in Manila. Outside the capital, a strong distribution network is supported to ensure the firm's presence in the three main regions of the archipelago. A branch office operates in Cebu to take charge of marketing in the Visayas and Mindanao regions. Area representatives are deployed to strengthen product promotion and distribution, while a network of dealers and traders are responsible for an efficient distribution system nationwide.

ADD Research's technical facilities and processes as well as its on-going skills development initiatives ensure the integrity of its products and service.

It maintains the technical center and laboratory where evaluation, product research and development activities are conducted. The capability of the technical center and laboratory are continuously upgraded through the acquisition of advanced laboratory equipment for product testing and development. This has put the firm's facilities at par with those of the biggest manufacturers in the local paint industry. ADD Research takes pride in its rigorous quality control system which ensures that the product leaving the plant conform with the requirements of the local and the international market.

ADD Research has computerized its operations to allow for the easy retrieval of marketing, production, technical and accounting information. This upgrades the accuracy and efficiency of the company's manufacturing and marketing operations.

ADD Research Paints and Chemicals Inc. is committed to provide world-class quality and services. It is a member of the Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers. It maintains membership and affiliation with customer organizations such as Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, Chamber of Real Estate & Building Assn., National Real Estate Assn., Rizal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Assn. of the Phil.

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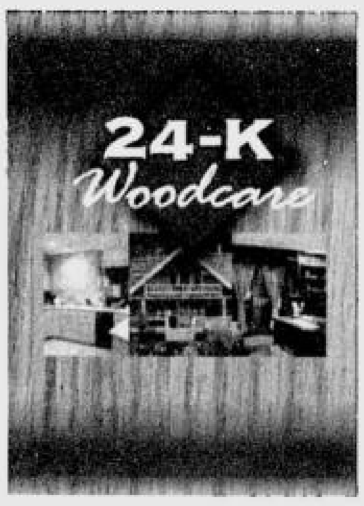

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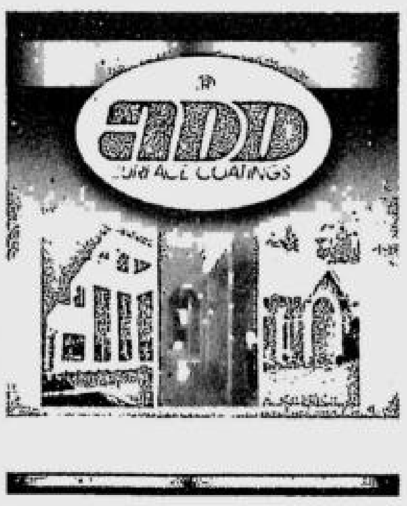

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Lopez firm allots P3.5B for expansion this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. has earmarked P3.5 billion for its expansion this year as the multimedia giant braces for cutthroat competition with the entry of telecom giant Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co. into rival GMA-7 Network Inc.

All of P2.3 billion in profits chalked up by the company last year had been set aside for this year's capital expenditures, while another P1 billion would be sourced through fresh borrowings, either through a bond float or bank loan, ABS CBN director for investor relations Oliver Calma said in an interview.

The capital expenditure program for this year was P1 billion or 40 percent higher than the P2.5 billion spent last year by the country's biggest broadcasting network, which is likewise the Lopez conglomerate's flagship company.

"A lot of it (budget) is for building infrastructure to ensure that everything is digitally ready. We're digitizing content, such as our library. For instance, our tapes will be put into CD-ROM and into our servers," Calma said.

Calma explained that the bulk of the budget this year, amounting to P1.5 billion, would go to maintenance expenditures. The amount represented the average cost of maintaining the company's broadcasting equipment each year.

Another P1 billion would be used to complete the construction of the new ABS-CBN broadcast complex building in the company compound which houses three new fully digital studies and more office space, he said.

Meanwhile, another P500 million was earmarked for the expansion of ABS-CBN subsidiaries, mainly Studio 23, which caters to upper scale audience.

The remaining P500 million, Calma noted, would be used to fully ditigize the network.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ABS-CBN announced that its board of directors has already approved the appropriation of P2.3 billion from the company's unrestricted retained earnings as of Dec. 31, 2000.

Calma said ABS-CBN would embark on fresh borrowings to cover the remaining funds needed for this year's capital expenditures, most likely by tapping the capital markets.

"We have enough leeway to borrow because we are under-leveraged. Our net debt-to-equity ratio is only at 40 percent," Calma said.

Analysts said that with the entry of PLDT into GMA-7, the country's No. 2 broadcasting network, ABS-CBN, would have to work harder to maintain its leadership and cope with the race toward convergence.

The PLDT group, which is controlled by the Hong Kong-based First Pacific group, has entered the broadcasting business to provide the content for its initiatives toward convergence or the eventual fusion of telecommunications, broadcast and Internet services through one medium or conduit.

Mediaquest Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of the beneficial trust fund of PLDT, is working to close the P8.5-billion deal to acquire 66.67 percent of GMA-7. A memorandum of understanding with GMA Network has already been signed last Feb. 7.

Meralco profit down, debts up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

POWER distribution giant Manila Electric Co. reported a drastic decrease in net income alongside ballooning long-term debts in 2000.

Meralco's net income went down 25 percent to P2.5 billion in 2000 from P3.3 billion in 1999.

On the other hand, its long-term debt went up 67 percent year-on-year to P26.8 billion in 2000 from P16.1 billion in 1999.

The Lopez-owned firm said that for 2000, it did not comply with the minimum return on rate base of 8 percent as required by two foreign creditors.

The report said the creditors granted Meralco a waiver of compliance with the 8-percent RORB for 1999, but that the waiver of one creditor stated no further application for such waiver would be considered.

Meralco has cited its failure to meet the required RORB as one of the reasons for its application for a 30-centavo per-kilowatt-hour rate increase before the Energy Regulatory Board filed last year.

However, oppositors to the application, which included the Office of the Solicitor General, contested Meralco's computation of its RORB.

While the rate increase petition is still pending with the ERB, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo told reporters the government would turn it down.

Meralco is also contingently liable to refund to its customers P11.3 billion in excess charges from 1994 to 1998.

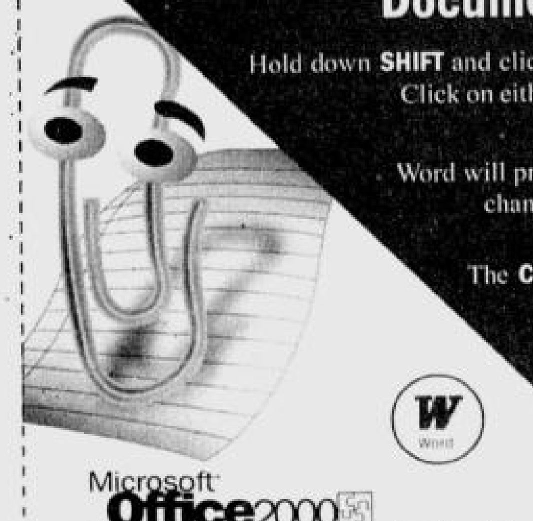
The ERB gave Meralco a provisional authority to increase its rates by 18.4 centavos per kilowatt-hour in 1994, but later ruled in 1998 that the utility was entitled to a rate adjustment of only 1.7 centavos per kwh.

Meralco said that because it could not raise its charges, its five-year P53.5-billion capital expenditures program may not be fully realized.

The capex program, covering the period from 2000 to 2004, is aimed primarily at ensuring adequacy and reliability of its system to reduce system losses.

Failing to raise enough funds, Meralco had an actual capex of P7.7 billion in 2000, which was supposed to be P8.3 billion.

Meralco planned to allocate a capex of P11.4 billion this year, but it anticipates to spend only P8.2 billion.



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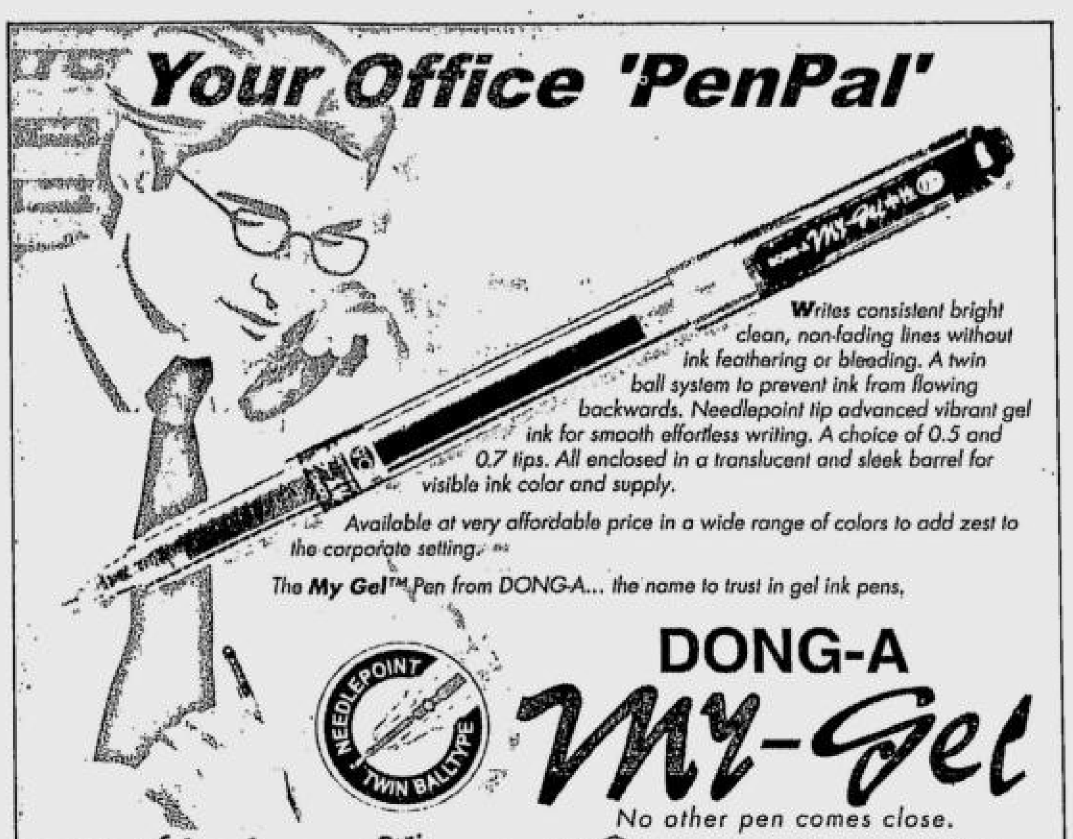

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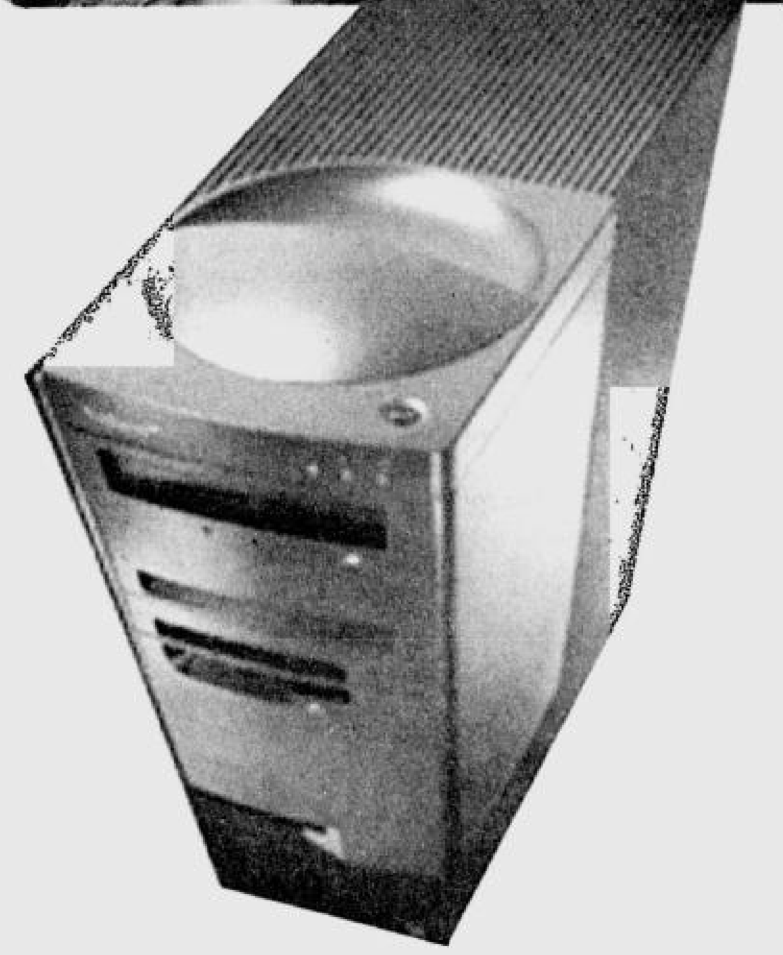

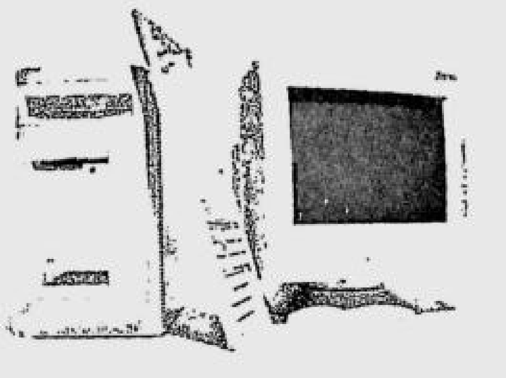

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Sugar production to fall short of demand this year

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY is projecting a sugar production shortfall of about 250,000 to 300,000 metric tons this year. The shortfall will be covered by imports.

Sugar Regulatory Authority Administrator James C. Ledesma said that this crop year's (September 2000 to August 2001) expected sugar production of 1.7 million metric tons were higher compared to the 1.628 million MT produced last year. However, the increase was not enough to meet the local requirement estimated at 1.93 million to 2 million MT this year.

"We're about 80 percent through the season. We have produced about 1.3 million tons so far. We expect to produce about 1.7 million tons. The numbers seem to show we are about to attain that," Ledesma told a news conference.

Ledesma confirmed market talk that the SRA asked private groups and trading companies to submit firm commitments to the government on the volume of sugar imports on April 17.

He added that the government was going to buy both raw and white sugar.

Ledesma said the anticipated dry spell arising from the El Niño phenomenon would not affect sugar production.

"We will have a problem if the dry spell will stay up to the first quarter next year. We will have to prepare for this. We will do cloud seeding to save our sugar production," he said.

The country consumes 1.9 million MT of sugar and exports some 150,000 MT of raw sugar to the United States yearly. As of Feb. 18 this year, the Philippines has shipped some 58,209 MT to the US.

"The bulk of this year's importation will likely be in the form of raw sugar in order to help the local sugar millers. But the volume will depend on the final production figures," he said.

Although importation was scheduled to start next month, Ledesma said shipments were expected to arrive by end-June or early July.

Ledesma had asked the interested traders such as US-based Amerop, Louis Dreyfus and Cargill to submit their letters of intent today. These traders are expected to come up with their final tenders and post performance bonds on April 17. The performance bond should be equivalent to 5 to 10 percent of the cost of their proposed importation.

He said that local prices of raw, washed and refined sugar would not be affected by the volatility of prices in the world market. The current wholesale price was placed at P990 per 50 kilogram bag while retail prices was at P22 to P27 per kilo.

BSP leaves key rates unchanged

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said it would leave its key overnight rates unchanged after its weekly meeting of the policy-making Monetary Board.

Earlier, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters that the Monetary Board has not reached a decision yet, but was likely to leave overnight interest rates unchanged.

"Wait for inflation, wait for (US) Fed cut," Buenaventura said.

The overnight borrowing rate now stands at 10.0 percent and the lending rate at 12.25 percent. The BSP last cut interest rates on March 23 by 50 basis points, a move to match the reduction in US rates by the Federal Reserve.

Philippine authorities have now cut rates by 500 basis points starting December, after raising them by 400 basis points in October to defend the peso as it came under attack following allegations of corruption against then President Joseph Estrada. *Reuters*

Gov't asked to draw up revenue-raising plans

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has asked the Philippines to draw up "alternative scenarios" should it fail to raise the P25 billion earlier promised under revenue enhancement measures, a finance department source said Wednesday.

This came even as Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo admitted that the government failed to collect P100 billion in taxes last year due to poor implementation of the value-added tax.

The finance department source said the IMF "understands it's going to be an uphill battle" for the Philippines to collect the revenues promised by the customs and internal revenue bureaus.

This was relayed at the first day of a 10-day review of the country's economic performance by an IMF mission.

The internal revenue bureau previously said it could earn an additional P10 billion through a new computerization system and by creating a special agency for large taxpayers while the customs bureau said it expected P15 billion from an increase in imports.

However, internal revenue officials admitted to the IMF delegates that it would be "very hard" to achieve those targets, said the source who was present at the meeting.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that at the meeting they took up the government's macroeconomic assumptions, its policies and the country's accomplishments in shoring up its finances.

Buenaventura said the Philippines would also subscribe to an IMF "post-program monitoring" set-up.

"We don't really have much of a choice," he said, adding that IMF monitoring of the Philippines would help its standing in the international financial community despite the absence of a formal financial package with the fund. *AFP*

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The new labor relations team

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

RECOGNIZING the strategic value of industrial peace in the new administration's thrust to turn around the national economy and the vital need to enhance the government's capability in labor dispute prevention and settlement, Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas has organized a new team that will focus on labor relations. Labor Undersecretary Art Brion will head this team composed of NCMB Executive Director Rico Olalia and BLR Director Hans Leo Cacdac. We submit that NLRC Chair Roy Señeres should be a part of this powerhouse team.

The mission of the team is to make sure that industrial peace and harmony shall be maintained and enhanced. Its thrust shall be mainly preventive, focusing on counseling for both employers and employees, pursuing the preference for voluntary rather than compulsory modes of labor-dispute settlement like conciliation, mediation and voluntary arbitration. The team will promote the LMCs (labor-management councils) and grievance systems as the principal vehicles for solving disputes. Art told us that he would spearhead labor education for employers, managers and supervisors.

The new LR challenges

The critical challenges confronting the government today in the field of labor relations include the adverse effects of globalization on local employment and the labor unrest that it entails. First, there is a need to give impetus to the right to self-organization and collective bargaining without unduly alarming the investors and without eroding on the competitiveness of our products and services in a global economy. Second, there is also a need to allow the right to peaceful strikes in accordance with the law, without destroying job security. Lastly, there is an urgent need to speed up labor disputes settlement and to lower litigation costs.

Brion, the next Drilon

Those who know Art Brion will readily welcome his reentry into DOLE. A level-headed government executive who has a vision for better service, Art will bring into DOLE a rich reservoir of experiences in labor litigation and appeals. He will imbue the labor department with empirical wisdom and a terrific rapport with people, both labor and employers. Art is well accepted in the business community and has achieved a very good reputation among his peers in the law practice.

Art Brion's career finds parallel with that of Frank Drilon. They are both brilliant lawyers and bar topnotchers. They both practiced law, Frank in Accra and Art in Siguion Reyna Law Offices until lately. Both worked as labor undersecretaries as their points of entry to government service. The two gentlemen are both recognized experts in industrial relations. Art Brion will be a very remarkable pillar of industrial peace and dispute-settlement. Someday, Art will be in the Senate like Frank. Mark my word.

Olalia, the next Herrera

Jong Olalia is the worthy son of an illustrious father, the late Ka Lando Olalia, and the grandson of the venerable Ka Bert Olalia, the founder of Kilusang Mayo Uno, along with Ka Bel Beltran. When Jong was appointed to replace the well accepted Tuy Magsalin, some quarters expressed apprehension over the chances of success of a KMU lawyer to mediate and conciliate national interest disputes. But Pat Sto. Tomas believes in Jong, and we believe in him too, that he can transcend his partisanship and be an effective man in the middle of labor and capital. Jong had his baptism of fire in Subic, mediating between SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo and the protesters. And he readily acquitted himself in that. Jong is a young man with a very bright future.

Ruckus against Roco and Gordon

There are brewing labor disputes in the Departments of Education and Tourism. The union in DOT takes issue against Dick Gordon's alleged imperious leadership style, while the staff in DECS question Raul Roco's supposed precipitate easing out of career executive service officers in violation of their security of tenure and the Comelec ban on personnel movements during the election period.

Although the employees involved are civil service personnel, the DOLE labor relations team may soon be called upon to mediate and conciliate because labor unions in government are required to be registered with the Bureau of Labor Relations and somehow the DOLE, more than the Civil Service Commission.

Roy Señeres' initiatives

There are various initiatives and innovations being spearheaded by Roy in the NLRC. The speed of labor dispute settlement has been considerably improved since Señeres took over the NLRC chairmanship. He reshuffled labor arbiters and labor arbitration assistants. He reassigned sheriffs and other staff and streamlined the labor adjudication system. Roy also introduced settlement of disputes by compromise rather than adjudication. Today, the state of morale in the NLRC has tremendously went up. The efficiency and productivity have jumped by leaps and bounds.

Perhaps, Roy's only remaining headache is how to weed out the corrupt and the inept in his turf. Roy has to choose the right people in the right post. Any misdeed and inefficiency can bring him down. With Roy's passion, the NLRC shall achieve unprecedented feats.

What to expect from the LR team

We, the clientele of DOLE, which include labor, employers, practicing lawyers and union leaders can expect strong support from a team of professional experts. We expect Art Brion to rise above his management lawyering alliances and Jong Olalia to transcend his KMU connections. Hans Cacdac and Roy Señeres, being career professionals, will most probably add value to the team. Pat's latest organizing move in DOLE is definitely accepted as a very adroit move in the right direction. Let's all support the LR team as we look forward to a more harmonious and productive labor relation situation.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.-jimenez-@pcppi.com.ph)

ADB says loan restructuring not an option for Maynilad

THE ASIAN Development Bank is not willing to restructure its share in the $800 million worth of loans inherited by Maynilad Water Services Inc. from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Of the total loans inherited by Maynilad from MWSS, ADB accounted for $249.2 million.

ADB country director Gunter Hecker said the restructuring of the loans was not a realistic solution to Maynilad's financial woes, which the Lopez-owned company claimed was due to the depreciation of the peso.

Hecker said the ADB did not want to interfere with the talks between MWSS and Maynilad but added that "we will welcome any solution acceptable to both parties."

He said the loans absorbed by Maynilad from MWSS were covered by government guarantees. This means that if Maynilad would miss payments, the national government would be obliged to pay the amount due.

On top of the inherited loans, Maynilad owes ADB another $171 million which was used for its capital investment program. The ADB also served as one of the financial consultants that backed the privatization of the MWSS.

Maynilad had stopped paying its loans by deferring the payment of its concession fees to the MWSS in the last two months. This was in protest to the MWSS' failure to act on Maynilad's petition for an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment (Cera).

Maynilad, which is a joint venture between the Lopez Group's Benpres Holdings Corp. and Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux of France, had asked the Court of Appeals for a temporary restraining order to prevent the MWSS from "touching" its $200-million performance bond.

The MWSS Regulatory Office and its Board of Trustees had filed a counter petition with the Court of Appeals seeking the lifting of the TRO.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz told the INQUIRER that he had asked the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel to file the agency's position paper with the court.

The concession agreement between MWSS and Maynilad states that MWSS can tap the performance bond posted by water operators Maynilad and the Manila Water Services Inc. of the Ayala Group in case they fail to remit payments for these loans.

Maynilad claimed that its forex losses had hit P2.75 billion since 1997 as the peso plunged to 50 per US dollar. It said it incurred the loans in 1997 when the peso-dollar rate was at about 27 per $1.

Christine A. Gaylican

Air Philippines earmarks ₱1B for expansion this year

AIR Philippines Corp. has earmarked P1 billion for its route expansion program this year to cover regional and international routes.

Three new Boeing 737-300 aircraft, which will be leased from US-based General Electric Aviation Services, will be delivered to APC next month. The aircraft will service new international routes such as Kuala Lumpur, Kaohsiung, Brunei, Bangkok and Guam. APC currently offers 26 flights daily to 15 domestic destinations.

"These new aircraft plus our bid to break into regional and international points lay the foundation for our vision to become a preferred global airline that exceeds world-class standards," APC president Rogelio Narciso said.

APC is hopeful that it can get the go-ahead from the Air Transportation Office (ATO) soon to be able to fly to the new destinations by next month. The carrier has a pending application with the ATO for an Air Carrier Operating Certificate (ACOC).

Earlier, APC increased its paid-in capital by P1 billion to finance its route expansion program via additional shares subscription which was approved during a special meeting of APC's board of directors held recently.

This development comes at a time when APC, the country's second largest carrier, enjoys marked improvement in its operational performance.

From January to date, APC's on time ratings have averaged 90 percent, up 20 percentage points from 70 percent last year. This record pushed the carrier's passenger load factor up to 68 percent to date from a low of 58 percent last year.

The three new Boeing 737s raises APC's operating fleet of eight Boeing 737-200 aircraft to 11. The narrow-bodied aircraft, famed as a member of the most popular family of passenger jets, will also be deployed for domestic operations.

Dole
PHILIPPINES, INC.

ATRIPLE FEAT

message by Dole Asia President

Allow ually show off.

We taki in the twin milestones our Dole Philippine operations have achieved recently and we would like to share with you our joy becausid not only get certified with world-class standards, we made history!

We are ly the first company in the Philippines but the first agricultural company in the world to simultaneously hold all three certific. ISO 9002, ISO 14001 and SA 8000.

This mıat Dole not only stands for high quality products but also for commitment to social responsibility and dedication to ecological balancıtrongly believe that the cost of producing best-value products should incorporate the cost of protecting the environment and improv lives of our people and community.

We alwlieve it's the right thing to do. And this is an innate belief in all our people because total quality, environmental accountability and soıponsibility are very much a part of who we are.

In orde a viable entity, we believe that the beneficiaries should not only be the shareholders but our stakeholders as well. That's why each Dıduct is a reflection of our commitment to our employees, growers, business partners, community, host country, environment and jusportant, to our customers.

For Dol Stanfilco, my hats off to you for adding another significant feather in your caps. Congratulations!

PAUL CENG
Dole Asident

DOLE SCRES A FIRST IN THE WORLD

Triple certification for Dole Philippines

I OF THE PRESIDENT
ACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

It is with great pride and pleasure that I congratulı Philippines, Inc. for recently being awarded the SA 8000 certification by the International Organization for Standardizat).

I would like to commend your organization for capt another citation for your adherence to excellence in all aspects of operations. The ISO SO 14001 and the newly-awarded SA 8000 certifications held by both the Stanfilco and divisions, emphasize your leadership among companies of the world in maintaining inteally accepted high standards in areas of quality, environmental management and social sibility. I hope you will be able to sustain such achievements and help inspire Philipased and other local companies to strive harder towards excellence in all areas of en

I wish you greater success and may you continue ive participation in creating a more dynamic and progressive Philippine business envht.

Again, congratulations and mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

DEPAIT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
ATI CITY, PHILIPPINES

Our warmest greetings to Dole Philippines Inc. certification of its banana and pineapple divisions, namely Stanfilco and Dolefil to SA 8000 in addition to the ISO 90 180 14001 certifications they already hold.

That these triple crowns distinguish the two divis "firsts" in their respective categories on a world-wide basis is an achievemthy of admiration and celebration by the whole country, and emulation by other Philipased companies.

Indeed, with international standards for quality, ımental performance, and corporate social responsibility becoming more pronounceceria for global acceptance, certification to ISO 14001, ISO 9002, and SA 80c become imperative for a company's success especially in the export market.

Dole's achievements transmit a veritably strong nce signal that not only are its Philippine-made products and operations worldnd even surpass the standards of many other agricultural companies in the world, but also that the Philippines can semultinational companies' ideal platform for overseas investments and production.

To Dole Philippines Inc., our sincerest congratulınd best wishes for continuing success.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

DEPARTMEIINANCE
MANILA, INES

Congratulations to Dole Philippines for being ld's first company to simultaneously hold three certifications: ISO 9002, ISO 14001 8000. This unprecedented record of holding the triple crown for excellence in finufacturing is proof of your world-class stature.

This honor is a big boost to Philippine agri-in and the country's economic recovery program.

Mabuhay and keep the torch burning!

Alberto G. Romulo
ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

Warmest congratulations to Dole Philippines, Inc. for having been awarded three prestigious certifications– ISO 9002, ISO 14001 and SA 8000-- by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Social Accountability International (SA) for its world-class quality management and environmental management systems and outstanding commitment to corporate social responsibility, confirming it as among the best-run agricultural companies in the world.

Dole Philippines Inc. has long staked various investments in the country, most particularly in Mindanao, harnessing its rich natural resources, providing employment to thousand of workers and their families, and sustaining the enhanced development of the island's agricultural and fisheries sector.

Its pioneering investments and efforts in Mindanao-particularly the banana and pineapple operations handled respectively by Stanfilco and Dolefil-- have since produced "fruits" and numerous benefits, uplifting the socio-economic standards of workers and the farming communities surrounding the company's facilities.

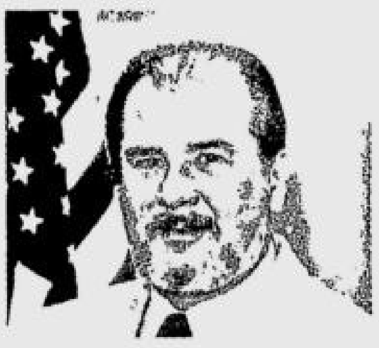
More importantly, the company has been contributing its just and generous share in transforming Mindanao into the country's principal "food basket," one of the main programs of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Congratulations! Mabuhay ang Stanfilco at Dolefil!
Mabuhay ang Dole Philippines Inc.!

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary

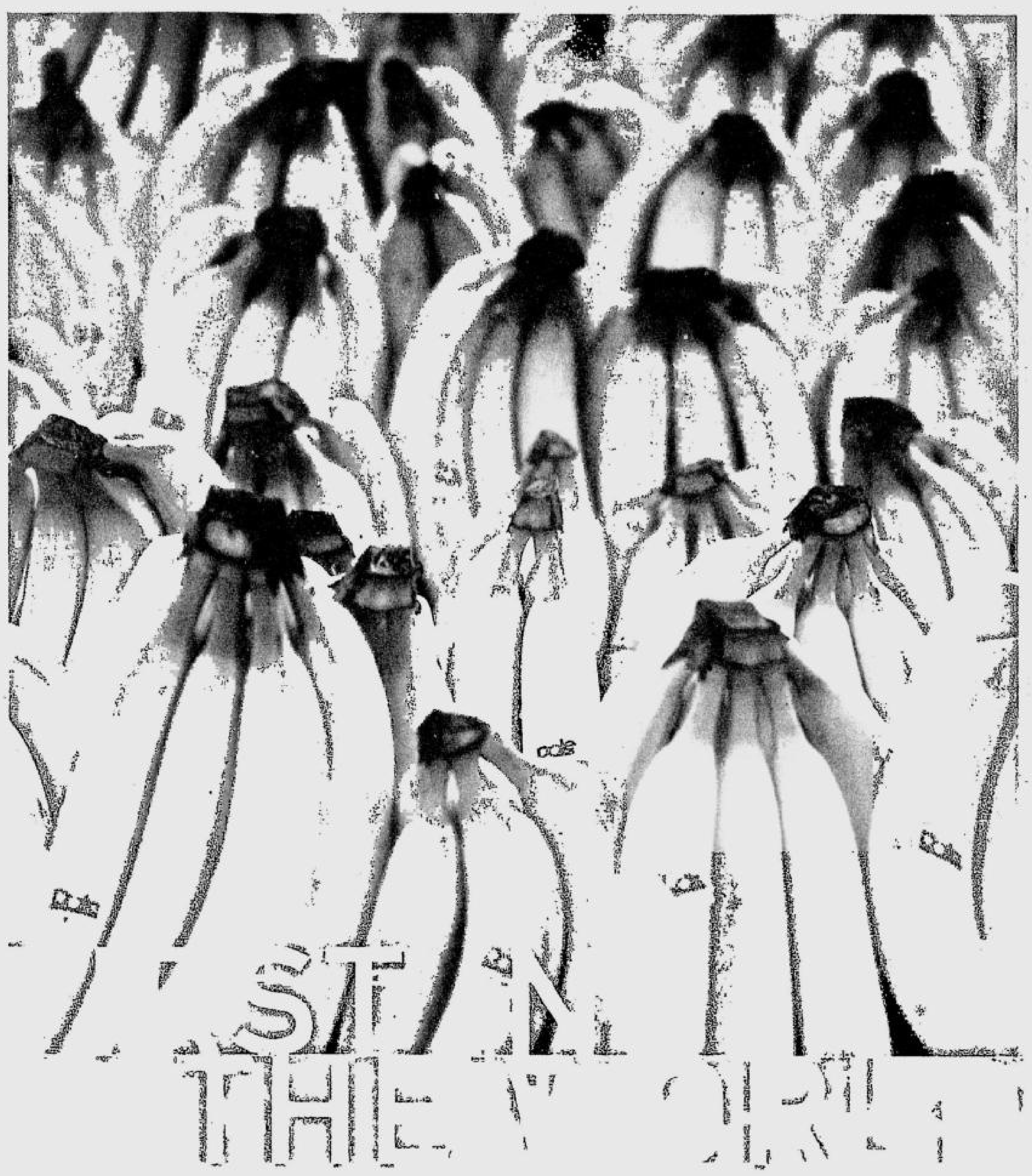
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

May I extend warm congratulations to Dole Philippines' record-breaking achievement in gaining international certification under three international standards: ISO 9001 ISO 14001 and SA 8000. This "triple crown" certification means that Dole's subsidiaries, Stanfilco and Dolefil have achieved highest standards in quality management and assurance, in environmentally-sensitive management, and in commitment to corporate social responsibility. All the workers, staff and management of the company can be very proud that this Philippine-based enterprise has become the very first agro-food business in the world to hold all three certifications at the same time.



This notable achievement underscores the commitment of US and Philippine joint enterprises to managerial stewardship and community responsibility. It encourages the growth of commercial partnerships and trade exchange between our two nations. I wish Dole Philippines continued success and prosperity.

MICHAEL E. MALINOWSKI
Charge d'Affaires, a. i.



When you buy a Dole banana, you are buying world-class quality. You are buying a product that is consistent in quality, consistent in taste and safe. All these from a company that is not only environmentally-friendly but also socially responsible.

Stanfilco, a division of Dole Philippines, Inc. and the country's pioneer banana exporter, earns the distinction of being the first company in the world's agricultural industry to simultaneously hold three certifications: ISO 9002, ISO 14001 and SA 8000.

This spells us a triple feat. We were recently honored with the SA 8000 certification, the international standard for social and ethical aspects of conducting business. We have also been maintaining the ISO 9002 certification for our quality management system in growing, packaging and export of bananas and the ISO 14001 certification for our environmental management system.

We believe that it is our core philosophy of adding value to everything we do, not only to our shareholders but also to our customers, growers, associates, community and environment. These most-coveted certifications outwardly reflect who we are and what we stand for.

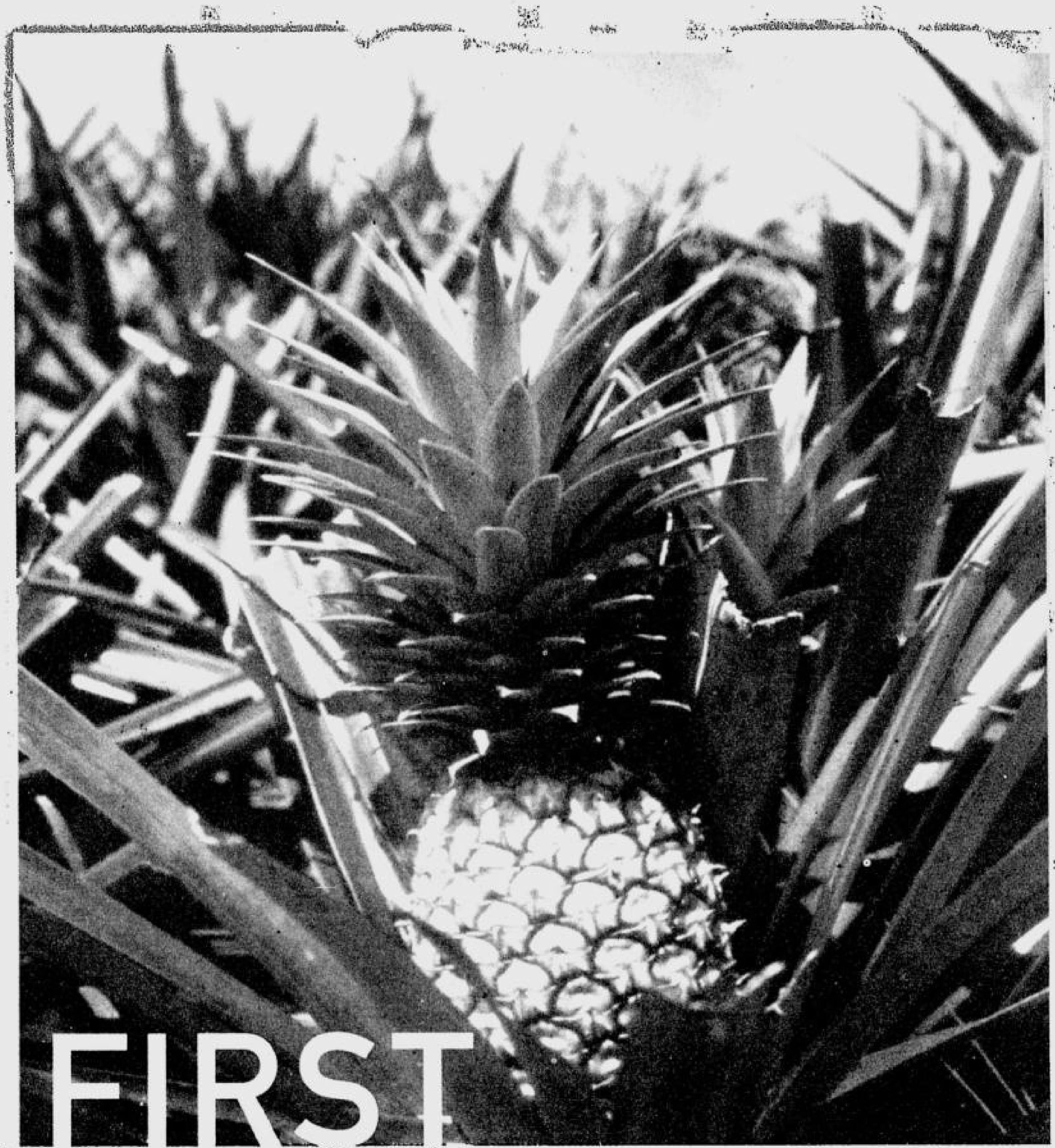
NUMBER ONE IN QUALITY, NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD.

Dole
PHILIPPINES, INC.

QUALITY ASSURED FIRM ISO 9002 SGS Q6003/Q11668/Q18215

GREEN DOVE AWARD ISO 14001 SGS 92014-1

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY SA 8000 SGS SHK10015



FIRST CLASS

When you buy a Dole pineapple, you are buying world-class quality. You can be sure that you are buying a product that is safe, of consistent taste, and consistent quality. All these from a company that is not only environmentally-friendly but also socially responsible.

Together with our banana division, Dole Philippines Inc. is proud to be the world's first agricultural company to simultaneously receive the three globally-accepted certifications: ISO 9002, ISO 14001 and SA 8000.

Call it a triple crown. We were recently honored with the SA 8000 certification, the international standard for social and ethical aspects of conducting business. We have also been maintaining the ISO 9002 certification for our quality management system in processing, packaging and distribution of pineapples and other products, and the ISO 14001 certification for our environmental management system.

We believe that these prestigious certifications are simply manifestations of our core philosophy of putting value in everything we do. For our shareholders, customers, growers, associates, community and environment, we uphold world-class standards because total quality is what we are about.

FIRST CLASS TASTE. WORLD-CLASS QUALITY.

Dole
PHILIPPINES, INC.

QUALITY ASSURED FIRM ISO 9002 SGS Q5330/ Q18030

GREEN DOVE AWARD ISO 14001 SGS 92184

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY SA 8000 SGS SHK10016

BOOST TO ECONOMY

Japan's parliament OKs tax reform bills

TOKYO—The Japanese parliament on Wednesday enacted a package of tax laws aimed in part at revitalizing the struggling economy.

"The House of Councilors passed a series of tax reform bills this morning," said a parliamentary official.

The measures include the introduction of a new tax system related to the reorganization of corporations to reduce their tax burden on mergers and splits.

The system provides tax breaks for the restructuring corporations on capital gains from transfer of an asset if they hold more than 50 percent of the unit, according to the finance ministry.

Shareholders receiving shares in a company created as the result of restructuring will also have their capital gains tax liability on their former shares deferred.

Another new law postpones the scrapping of withholding taxes on stock-trading capital gains for two more years. The withholding tax system was initially scheduled to end on March 31.

The extension means investors can either continue pay a 1.05-percent withholding tax on the value of share sales, or a 26-percent tax on their annual capital gains by filing a separate tax return.

Many investors choose to pay the withholding tax to avoid filing separate tax returns.

"Abolishing the (withholding) tax was feared to have a negative effect on the stock market," Kyodo News said.

Also under the package, the scrapping of tax breaks for home loans is postponed until December 2003. They were originally scheduled to be phased out in June.

Along with the measures designed to help the economy, parliament also enacted a law to encourage purchases of environmentally friendly vehicles by differentiating taxes imposed by local governments according to the vehicles' fuel efficiency.

Analysts queried whether the moves would have much of a stimulative effect since they largely extended tax breaks already in place.

"It's got to be pretty limited. On the whole, I wouldn't expect any great macro impact," said HSBC economist Peter Morgan.

He pointed out that extending the tax break on housing loans could even depress demand in the short term since it might deter people from rushing to buy a home before the tax break expired.

"The biggest thrust of the tax reform is a new system related to the restructuring of corporations. Other changes are just small time compared with that and have limited impact on the economy," said Kenji Yumoto, chief senior economist at the Japan Research Institute.

He pointed out that although the system of tax cuts for housing loans would be carried over, its scope will be reduced.

"It has given some impetus to the economy in the past. It is great that the system will not be abolished but it is unlikely to give any additional boost to the economy," Yumoto said. *AFP*

Russia decides against signing new IMF agreement

MOSCOW—Russia announced Wednesday it was abandoning its efforts to strike a one-year cooperation agreement with the International Monetary Fund, saying it did not want or need Western assistance.

"After assessing our capabilities, we have decided against striking a full-scale cooperation agreement with the IMF for the year," Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Kudrin said.

Kudrin, who also serves as finance minister, was cited by news agencies as saying that Russia had the financial resources to cope on its own and preferred not to remain "under constant IMF control."

At the same time, Kudrin stressed that Russia would repay in full its debt obligations due this year to the Paris Club of creditor nations.

Russia and the IMF would continue consultations over striking a longer-term, three-year cooperation agreement, he added.

But Russia's consultations with the IMF in the future would be held twice yearly, as opposed to once every four months as was the case now, Kudrin said.

Analysts said that Russia appeared unwilling to meet the strict IMF conditions attached to its aid, with Moscow sure that the Washington-based IMF was intentionally making things difficult for political reasons.

"The present tension in US relations has clearly been unhelpful in resolving this issue. The Russian official's perception appears to be that the IMF will raise the bar ever higher to prove that Russia is 'wrong and 'bad'," said a research note by UFG brokerage.

Relations between Moscow and Washington had worsened sharply under the new administration of George W. Bush over a range of issues including missile defense and Russian arms sales to Iran, it said.

Last week, the biggest spy row since the Cold War erupted between the two countries, with the United States expelling 50 Russian diplomats and Russia retaliating in kind.

Moscow's decision to abandon the search for an IMF deal would make Russia's financial future even more dependent on the price of oil, which is a major export, said the UFG report.

"The main practical consequence of this is to increase Russian financial markets' exposure to the oil price," UFG added.

Moscow's coffers have been boosted by high prices on its oil and gas exports but there are fears this bonanza is running out as world prices ease.

According to Troika Dialog finance house, Russia also did not want to meet IMF demands to disclose the finance ministry's treasury operations and its sale of precious metals.

Moscow signed a July 1999 agreement with the IMF for $4.5 billion in credit for the period ending in December 2000.

One installment of $640 million was paid before the program was suspended in September 1999.

A one-year agreement would have eased Russia's debt repayment process, Kudrin said.

Russia on March 2 paid $32.2 million to its Paris Club creditors, completing the total $1.305-billion debt repayment due for February.

On Jan. 1, Moscow's debt to the Paris Club stood at $48.3 billion, of which $38.7 billion were Soviet-era obligations.

The Paris Club, which works in cooperation with the IMF, represents the world's largest state creditors and is a forum for reaching loan agreements and renegotiating foreign debt. *AFP*

S. Korea industry shows sign of moderate recovery

SEOUL—South Korea's industrial output rose 8.6 percent year-on-year in February, showing signs of a moderate recovery in demand and exports, officials said Thursday.

The February growth compared with a 0.1-percent gain in January, the National Statistical Office (FSO) said.

"The economic slowdown is showing signs of easing on the back of a moderate recovery in domestic demand and exports last month," it said in a statement.

The index of leading indicators rose to 131.9 in February from 131.5 in January.

FSO director Park Hwa-soo, however, was cautious about the prospects for economic recovery. "Despite an easing of the downward trend, we have yet to see whether the economy will head for a full recovery."

South Korea's economic growth began falling sharply this year after rising 8.8 percent last year.

The February output was boosted by a steady rise in semiconductor output and a recovery in automobile production.

Manufacturing output rose 8.7 percent year-on-year in February, after a 0.3-percent contraction in January.

Inventories rose 15.1 percent in February, after a 16.3-percent rise in January. The factory utilization ratio rose to 74.9 percent from 73.9 percent.

Gross shipments rose 4.4 percent in February, reversing a 2.0-percent fall in the previous month.

Combined wholesale and retail sales grew 1.3 percent from a year earlier, after growing 2.2 percent in January. *AFP*

Lack of critical mass may hinder e-retailing

SINGAPORE—Asia has the potential for an e-retailing boom but is being held back by a shortage of Internet users, international retail analyst Ira Kalish said here Thursday.

The PricewaterhouseCoopers director of global retail intelligence, in Singapore to address a seminar on "Retailing in the New Economy," singled out South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong as the regional exceptions.

"I think each country in Asia is big enough to support a successful e-retailing venture," Kalish told AFP on the sidelines of the conference.

"The problem is I am not sure if in these countries there are enough Internet users," he said.

"I think Internet penetration in a country has to reach a critical point in order for Internet transactions to be successful and, just as in store retailing, you have to have a suitable number of middle class shoppers to support that kind of business."

The Los Angeles-based analyst said South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong are "sufficiently wired and sufficiently affluent" to support e-retailing but other Asian countries such as Thailand and the Philippines lacked the critical mass needed.

A survey by Internet ratings company Nielsen//NetRatings showed that 31 percent of Taiwan Internet users made purchases on the Internet in the fourth quarter of 2000, compared to 36 percent in Hong Kong and 48 percent in South Korea.

For Asian retailers to succeed in cyberspace, Kalish said it was vital that they take a simple approach.

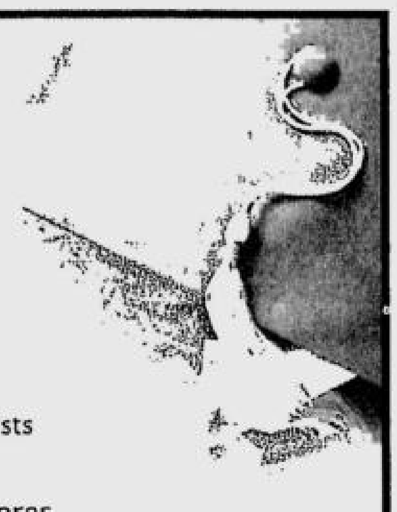
"Make the websites easy to use and user friendly," he said.

And pure-play Internet retailers don't usually succeed because of the limited access they have to their customers, he said.

"The most successful Internet retailers are the ones that are already existing store retailers who create a multi-channel approach to consumers."

Another Nielsen//NetRatings survey found that traditional retail businesses in Asia reaped more benefit from Internet sales during the holiday season than their purely online competitors.

The survey showed that these "clicks and mortar" retailers had successfully parlayed their brand names onto the Internet to boost sales. *AFP*



A Toast to the Class of 2001!

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Telecom market growth forecast cut by half

STOCKHOLM—The head of Swedish mobile phone giant Ericsson said Wednesday that growth in the world telecom market for 2001 could be about half of that forecast earlier.

"The growth of the world market could be cut in half" this year, Ericsson chief executive Kurt Hellstroem said.

The global telecoms market would grow at a rate of between eight and 10 percent this year, a 50 percent reduction on the growth rate foreseen just a few months ago, the chief executive told shareholders.

"The slowdown in the economy began in the United States. This slowdown arrived more quickly than anticipated," he said.

Hellstroem's remarks came a day after Ericsson announced a cost-cutting program including the loss of 3,300 jobs in Sweden and Britain, blaming a slowdown in the world economy and a fall in orders from the United States.

The embattled Ericsson chief, struggling to recover from a series of setbacks in recent months to the company's core business and share price, said Ericsson had no intention of dropping its mobile phone operations.

Ericsson announced in January that it was to outsource its handset manufacturing operations to the US firm Flextronics, but intended to keep research and development and marketing in-house.

Despite his aggressive rhetoric, Hellstroem admitted that forecast sales of mobile telephones would have to be scaled back. *AFP*

House passes Bush's budget, tax cut plan

WASHINGTON—Rejecting Democrats' claims that President George W. Bush's tax cuts are too big and too late, the House of Representatives on Wednesday approved his $1.9-trillion fiscal 2002 budget that lays the groundwork for $1.6 trillion in tax cuts over a decade.

The budget, a blueprint that is filled out later by tax and spending bills, cleared the Republican-controlled House 222-205 on a largely party line vote.

But it faces a much tougher test next week in the evenly divided Senate. Top Senate Republicans were still working to round up votes, and acknowledged it would pass only after lawmakers extracted more money for pet programs and received assurances they can work to reshape the tax cuts later.

In the House where they hold a majority, Republicans easily muscled the budget through, as they did earlier this month when they passed nearly $1 trillion worth of income tax cuts at the heart of the budget lawmakers approved.

"Our new president says he wants to take us in a new direction, and we should say, 'We're with you Mr. President,'" House Republican leader Dick Armey of Texas said.

In a daylong debate, Republicans defeated Democratic efforts to shrink the tax cuts to make room for more payment of the debt and to shore up domestic programs including education, Medicare and Social Security.

They put off calls for an immediate $60-billion rebate to boost the economy. While Senate Republicans have joined Democrats in backing the idea, House Republicans said that should be considered after the long-term tax cuts are passed.

"Today is a big day," Bush said before the anticipated victory in the House. He called his plan "a common sense budget" that protects Social Security and Medicare while recognizing "this nation needs a tax relief package to stimulate our economy."

While agreeing the economy could use a quick tax cut, the White House rebuffed efforts by Democrats to move first on the retroactive cut and put off the long-term reductions. Republicans said it was a ploy to scuttle Bush's plan.

"The president believes it's urgent to provide permanent tax relief, not one-time-only tax relief," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

But Democrats said Republicans were imperiling an economic boost for tax cuts that would take effect mostly after 2005.

House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri said Congress could approve a quick rebate "in a day, but they refuse to do that because of their obsession with a year-old tax plan."

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, a New Mexico Republican, said the plan the Senate would consider next week will offer a $60-billion retroactive cut along with the long-term tax cuts.

His House counterpart, Iowa Republican Jim Nussle, said his budget does not preclude an immediate tax cut or rebate, but leaves that up to the tax-writing House ways and means committee and the Senate finance committee. *Reuters*

Nasdaq plunges as earnings woes resurface

NEW YORK—Wall Street's shaky recovery was hit with a hard dose of reality Wednesday as fresh profit warnings from tech giants Nortel and Palm sent the Nasdaq into a tailspin.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite dropped 118.13 points (5.99 percent) to close at 1,854.13.

The blue-chip Dow Jones industrials ended a three-day winning streak, tumbling 162.19 points (1.63 percent) to close at 9,785.35 and the Standard and Poor's 500 slumped 28.88 points (2.44 percent) to 1,153.29.

"It has been a rough day, earnings worries have resurfaced," said Michael Lyons, a senior trader with Morgan Stanley.

"The Nortel and Palm warning show that we are not out of the woods yet as far as profits are concerned—it seems that there is more selling to be done."

"The cold reality of slowing corporate earnings in a cooling economy promptly halted the three day run in the blue chips, reminding the street that rallies remain suspect until proven otherwise," said Bryan Piskorowski of Prudential Securities.

"With the bottoming process come short, snappy rallies. But these manic reversals also bring out the sellers."

The slide was blamed mostly on a new profit warning from Nortel, which unsettled investors by revealing that first quarter losses will be deeper than expected. It was the second time in two months that the Canadian telecom equipment maker has warned of slowing earnings.

Nortel plunged as a result, falling 17 percent, or $2.96 to $13.80.

Shares in Palm Inc. plunged 48 percent to close 7-7/16 weaker at 8-1/16 in the wake of the handheld computer group's profit warning.

Cisco fell sharply, suffering the effects of the Nortel warning in addition to a raft of negative analyst comments, with many observers betting that it will not be too long before the Internet infrastructure group issues a profit warning.

"We believe Cisco shares may be under pressure following Nortel's earnings disappointment," a Merrill Lynch analyst said.

Cisco slid 2-3/8—or 13 percent—to 15-3/4.

Fiber optics component maker JDS Uniphase was also hit by the Nortel warning, falling over 14.5 percent, or 3-25/64, to 19-59/64.

On the bond market, the yield on the 10-year bond eased to 4.967 percent from 4.997 Tuesday and on the 30-year bond rose to 5.465 percent from 5.456 percent. Bond yields and prices move in opposite directions. *AFP*

Dot-com failures bring SF property mart back to earth

SAN FRANCISCO—It is still far from cheap, but after rising at a staggering rate during the boom years of the late 1990s, real estate in San Francisco is beginning to come down to earth, a new report shows.

The report, by the Rosen Consulting Group, focused on the office real estate market in San Francisco, which it said weakened substantially during the first quarter of 2001, especially in parts of the city where most Internet startups are clustered.

In fact, the study found such a marked difference in real estate trends in different parts of the city that it concluded San Francisco effectively represented a tale of two entirely different real estate markets.

In the city's financial district, which houses many banks and other old economy types of businesses, rents fell 7.5 percent to $74.16 per square foot during the first quarter, compared with the fourth quarter of last year. Despite the decline, the vacancy rate there is still at a relatively modest 5.4 percent.

But in the region known as Multimedia Gulch, where dot-com startups often set up shop in old lofts and warehouses, rents fell 8.5 percent to $63.60 per square foot over the same period, and the vacancy rate jumped to 13.1 percent.

The study said the decline in rents corresponded closely to the decline in the Internet sector and the rise in unemployment. During the 12-month period ended in February, it said, some 65,000 employees have been laid off from dot-com companies, and a disproportionate number of them were based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The report said the trend of falling prices could be exacerbated by the large number of new buildings that are now under construction. It said about 4.6 million square feet of new space is expected to be added by 2003 and 1.4 million square feet of renovated space will reenter the market this year or next.

Many of these new construction projects were slated during more prosperous times, the study said, "illustrating the development community's ill-timed exuberance."

To put the findings in perspective, it may be important to note how far and fast prices rose over the past few years. Even after the declines of this year, office space in San Francisco is still between 40 and 60 percent more expensive than it was at the end of 1999. *Reuters*

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SM Prime posts 10% growth in 2000 profit

SM PRIME Holdings Inc., the country's premier shopping mall chain, posted a net income of P3.137 billion in 2000, an increase of 10 percent over the previous year's P2.86 billion, based on the company's unaudited financial statements.

The growth came from revenues of P6.16 billion in 2000, an increase of 14 percent from P5.4 billion in 1999. Of total revenues, rental revenues rose 16 percent to P4.85 billion last year from P4.18 billion the previous year. Income from operations also increased by 10 percent to P3.85 billion from the previous year's P3.48 billion.

SM Prime, acknowledged for its long-term vision and strategic management, had steadily forged on with its plans. It built and opened in April last year the 170,000-square meter SM City-Manila at the very heart of Manila, and in November, SM City-Pampanga, an hour's drive north of Manila, both to huge and enthusiastic markets. These ninth and 10th malls quickly reached their current averages of 98 percent lease-awarded and 91 percent occupancy rates. SM City-Pampanga's performance and shopping mall crowd has been way beyond expectations from opening day. For this reason, management has decided on an additional mall space of some 41,000 square meters, an expansion of more than 70 percent, which is now in the process of bidding for construction. SM Prime malls' gross floor area has reached 1.64 million square meters and growing.

SM Prime is constructing two more malls for opening this year. One is in Sucat, Parañaque, set to open in May, and the other is in Davao in Mindanao, scheduled for opening in the second half of 2001. Furthermore, the mall developer will be breaking ground soon in Bicutan, Parañaque, and in Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao for mall openings in 2002.

ASEAN, JAPAN

Standards for IT education pushed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES and Japan have agreed to push for the standardization of information technology education in Southeast Asia to facilitate the deployment of IT workers in the region to key economies worldwide.

This was disclosed yesterday by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II who has likewise urged the Japanese government to give Filipino workers a longer working visa in Japan similar to IT workers from India.

During the IT Summit in Cebu, Roxas met with Takeo Hiranuma, chief of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, where they agreed to work toward an Asean-wide agreement for common content of IT education.

Roxas noted that existing systems for certification of IT workers were "uneven" as employers were unsure of the standards used.

"With Japan, Asean can work out the standard content of IT education so that there is an assurance that the IT skills content of the certification program for a Filipino, Malaysian, Indonesian or other Asean IT-certified professionals are similar," Roxas said.

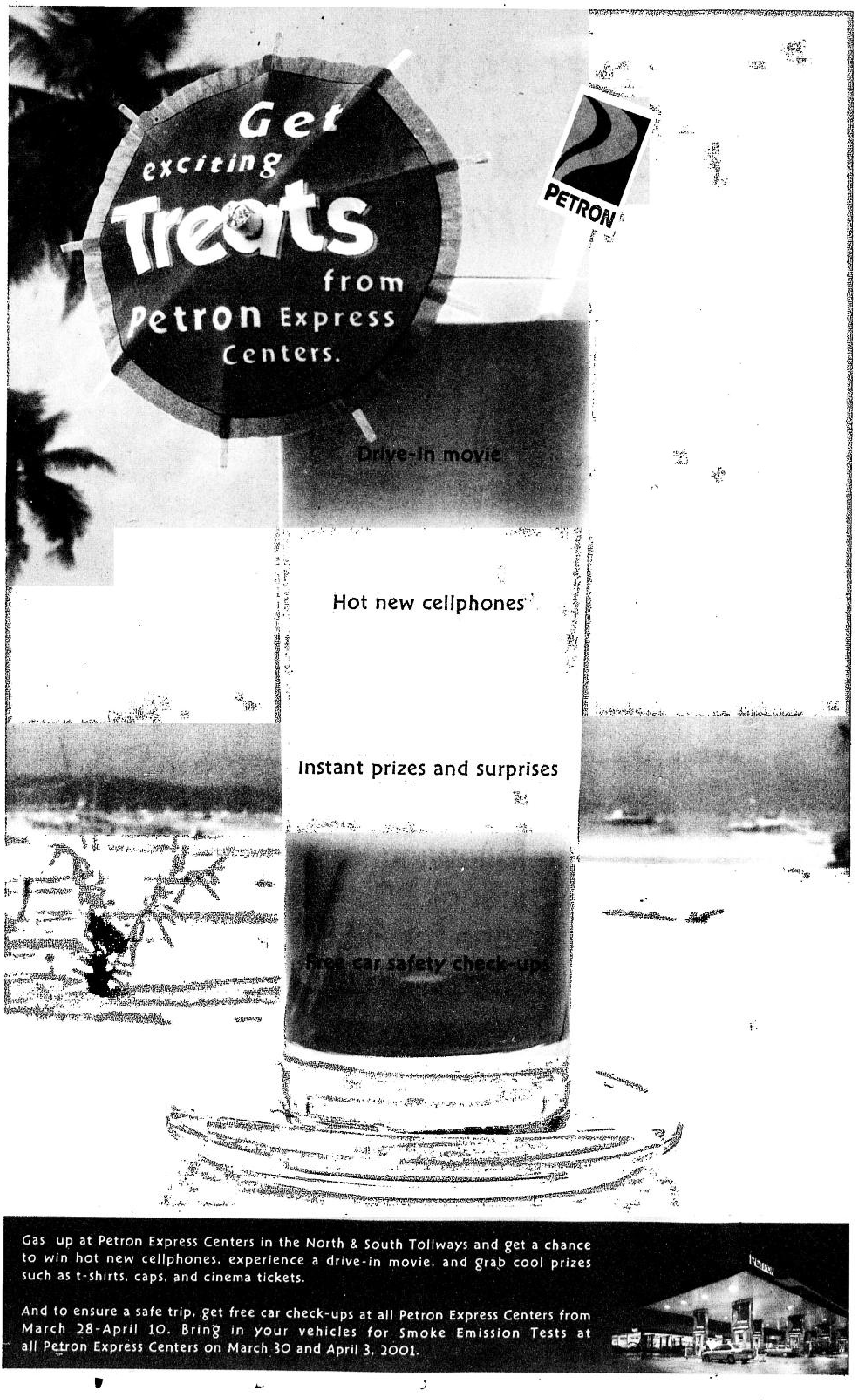
Roxas said a common standard for IT education would boost demand for IT workers in the region. For example, Japanese companies would be more confident of the skills level of IT-certified professionals and there is continued upgrading of their skills to meet the quality defined or required by the market.

This move is expected to boost the country's IT training centers—AMA Computer College, STI College and NIIT—because it would provide more opportunities for their graduates to land IT jobs overseas.

Roxas also met with Japan's Ministry of Justice where he batted for a lengthening of the Filipino IT workers stay in Japan from one year to three years, which the Japanese immigration department gives to Indian IT workers. He wants greater access of Filipino IT workers to Japan to enable them to sharpen their skills that they could bring back to the country.

The Philippines has batted for financing for part of $1.5 billion worth of nearly a dozen information technology projects under the Japanese government's Comprehensive Cooperation Package. The Japanese government has allotted $15 billion worth of official development assistance (ODA) and Other Official Flows (OOF) loans over the next five years for the CCP IT initiative which aims to narrow the international digital divide or the gap between countries in terms of IT development.

The funds would come from the Obuchi Fund and JBIC, which charges a 0.95-percent interest annually payable over 30 years (with a 10-year grace period) and requires counterpart funding from the government of 15 percent of project cost.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Macondray sets 3-year expansion to boost capacity

By Doris C. Dumlao

DAVAO-BASED plastic manufacturer Macondray Plastics Inc. has mapped out an aggressive expansion plan this year following a successful initial public offering last November.

Awash with P100 million in fresh IPO proceeds, MacPlas announced that it would embark on a three-year expansion program whose first stage is to increase its capacity by 40 percent with the construction of a new manufacturing plant this year.

MacPlas chair Jose Castro Jr. said a 2,280-square-meter facility worth P50 million would be put up next to its main manufacturing plant in Davao. The first phase of the expansion program will be completed by October.

"We've intensified our sales and marketing efforts among clients in the agricultural as well as in the commercial/industrial sector and we're gearing up to meet their demand for high-quality plastic packaging materials," Castro said.

"Our increased capacity will enable us to serve their requirements and thus also sustain our own company's strength and development," he said.

The company, whose products are heavily dependent on banana exporters, is currently operating at an average 77 percent of its annual rated capacity. The IPO proceeds are expected to address this limitation by increasing capacity to absorb demand growth for the next four years.

The capacity for blown film is projected to be expanded by about 40 percent or by 900 metric tons over the current total capacity of 2,130 metric tons a year.

Approximately 90 percent of the company's revenue and volume are attributed to products for banana growing and exporting such as tree bags and twines. MacPlas is thus seen as well-positioned to support the steadily growing export sector, particularly the banana segment, where the country accounts for 10 percent of the global banana production and ranks as the fourth biggest producer of the world.

MacPlas is among the few companies that listed on the PSE during the last three years still experiencing a post-IPO uptrend, with its shares trading at P6.50 or about 20 percent higher than its offering price of P5.38.

Castro noted that the company has helped revive optimism and investment activity in Mindanao.

"We have blazed the trail for other Mindanao-based companies to raise funds from the capital market outside Mindanao," Castro noted.

MacPlas currently has a post-IPO capitalization of about P1.5 billion.

Capwire readies new business plan

By Anthony O. Alcantara

SATELLITE link provider Capitol Wireless Inc. will present next week a revised business plan in order to appease its creditors and thereby proceed with the restructuring of some P1 billion in debts.

Joel Aguilar, Capwire chief finance officer, said the company's creditor banks were just waiting for the business plan so that they could push through with the restructuring.

"We are just finalizing our projections based on our seven-month performance (since the start of our fiscal year in July 2000). The plan will outline our projections for the next 10 years," he said.

On Sept. 27, 2000, Capwire signed a debt restructuring agreement with its creditors after almost two years of protracted negotiations.

However, Capwire earlier sought the assistance of the courts regarding the debt restructuring to ensure that creditors will not move to foreclose the company.

With the courts' decision in January to allow the two parties to proceed with the implementation of the restructuring, Capwire now has to address the issue of why Capwire failed to meet the projections for the fiscal year starting July 2000.

Aguilar said the company did not expect the rapid decline in accounting rates, which determine revenues from international long distance calls. There was also the political turmoil late last year until early this year to blame for Capwire's decline in revenues.

He did not specify the other projections that the company failed to meet, but said the new projections would have to reflect the new realities the company was facing.

Meanwhile, the company is also talking to three potential foreign partners. However, talks could only proceed profitably after the company settles its debt restructuring.

When the debt restructuring agreement was signed in September last year, Capwire also paid approximately P18 million for interest due as of June 2000. Interest payments were supposed to be paid on a quarterly basis. However, Capwire still had not paid the interest due December 2000.

Under the indicative terms and conditions of the debt-restructuring plan, the loans will be divided into two tranches. Approximately 75 percent of the loans will be placed under tranche-1 and the other 25 percent will be under tranche-2.

KL lowers 2001 growth target to 6%

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia on Wednesday lowered its economic growth forecast to between 5 and 6 percent this year, down from 7 percent previously, amid an expected sharp fall in manufacturing due to the US slowdown.

The gross domestic product (GDP) growth revision came a day after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad unveiled a three-billion-ringgit ($789 million) supplementary budget to shore up the economy.

Bank Negara Malaysia governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz said GDP growth was expected to moderate to 5 percent amid a sharper US slowdown, a fragile Japanese economy and global financial uncertainties.

But at a news conference to release the bank's 2000 report, Zeti said the new measures announced by the premier would add another one percent to push overall growth "closer to 6 percent."

"The growth momentum built over the last two years, the strength of the economic fundamentals and implementation of the new measures are expected to generate sufficient impetus for output in the domestic economy to expand by 6 percent in real terms in 2001," she added.

The Malaysian economy grew by a heady 8.5 percent last year.

In its report, Bank Negara said the revised 2001 GDP forecast was based on the assumption that US growth would slide to 2 percent from 5 percent last year, leading to slower electronics demand.

It said manufacturing was now expected to grow only 8.5 percent, down sharply from 21 percent in 2000. Electronics output is seen declining to 9.4 percent from 44.8 percent last year.

Construction growth is expected to be maintained at one percent. Agriculture growth is seen at 1.1 percent, up from 0.4 percent last year amid higher palm oil production.

The services sector is forecast to grow 3.6 percent, lower than 4.7 percent in 2000, while mining is expected to turnaround to grow 1.4 percent after contracting 0.5 percent last year.

Bank Negara said Malaysia's current account surplus was expected to narrow to 6.8 percent of gross national product (GNP) from 10 percent last year due to slower export growth.

Exports growth is expected to fall to 4.9 percent from 16.1 percent in 2000, and imports growth at 8.4 percent, down from 25.7 percent last year.

In a foreword in the report, Zeti said there was a need to sustain the confidence and commitment of the private sector and not allow "negative expectations to gather momentum and become self-fulfilling." *AFP*

Hyundai unit gets massive aid package

SEOUL—South Korean banks are to give a massive new 2.9 trillion won ($2.2 billion) aid package to keep Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. (HEC) alive, officials said Thursday.

The move, which will mean the virtual nationalization of the country's largest construction company, triggered a bitter political debate.

The main opposition Grand National Party (GNP) accused the government of giving "unjust favors" to the Hyundai Group because of its support for President Kim Dae-Jung's "Sunshine Policy" of engagement with North Korea.

The heads of nine banks, led by Korea Exchange Bank (KEB) chief Kim Kyung-Lim, met late Wednesday to discuss the fate of Hyundai Group's construction giant, a KEB official said.

The package, however, requires approval from other minor creditors at a meeting Thursday. Some banks have insisted HEC should be placed under court receivership.

Measures will include a 1.4 trillion won ($1.07 billion) debt-for-equity swap and 1.5 trillion won in fresh funds for HEC, the official said.

Of the 1.5 trillion won, banks will extend 750 billion won through purchases of new convertible bonds and another 750 billion won by subscribing to rights issues, he said.

Three state-controlled bans—Korea Development Bank, Hanvit Bank and Korea Exchange Bank—will become HEC's main shareholders.

This would lead to a change of management at Hyundai Engineering currently controlled by Chung Mong-Hun, a son of Hyundai Group patriarch Chung Ju-Yung, who died last week.

The son holds a 6.38-percent stake in HEC, which has launched the conglomerate's loss-making projects in North Korea.

Finance and Economy Minister Jin Nyum and other top economic officials held an emergency meeting Wednesday to stop HEC's liquidity crisis becoming an even bigger drag on the South Korean economy. *AFP*

Mizuho's bad loans seen to hit 600B yen

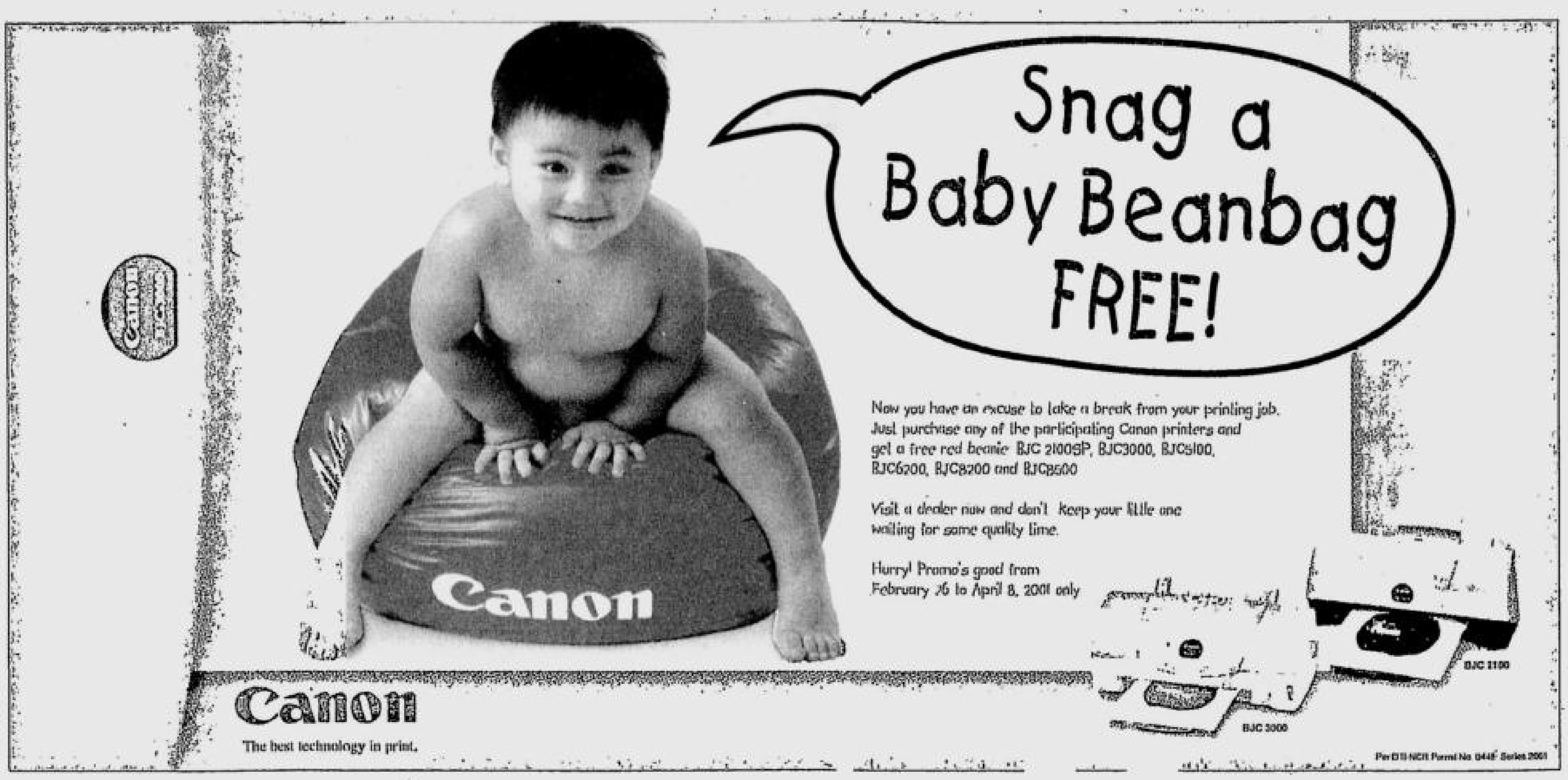
TOKYO—The cumulative bad loans of the three Japanese banks forming the world's biggest financial group, Mizuho Holdings Inc., will reach 600 billion yen ($4.9 billion) in the six months to March, a report said Thursday.

The bad debt burden for Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd. (DKB), Fuji Bank Ltd. and the Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. will be about 1.5 times as much as the originally projected, the Mainichi Shimbun daily reported.

"Each of the three banks will increase reserves for bad debts as Phoenix Resort Ltd., of which DKB was the main creditor filed for court protection, and as collateral values are reviewed due to the fall in land prices," the paper said.

Phoenix Resort, the Japanese operator of the extravagant Seagaia resort where the Group of Eight foreign ministers met last July, went under in February with debts amounting 320 billion yen.

"But the net operating profits will be slightly higher than initial estimates because of profits from sales of government bonds and the final balance of all three banks is expected to be in the black," the paper said. *AFP*



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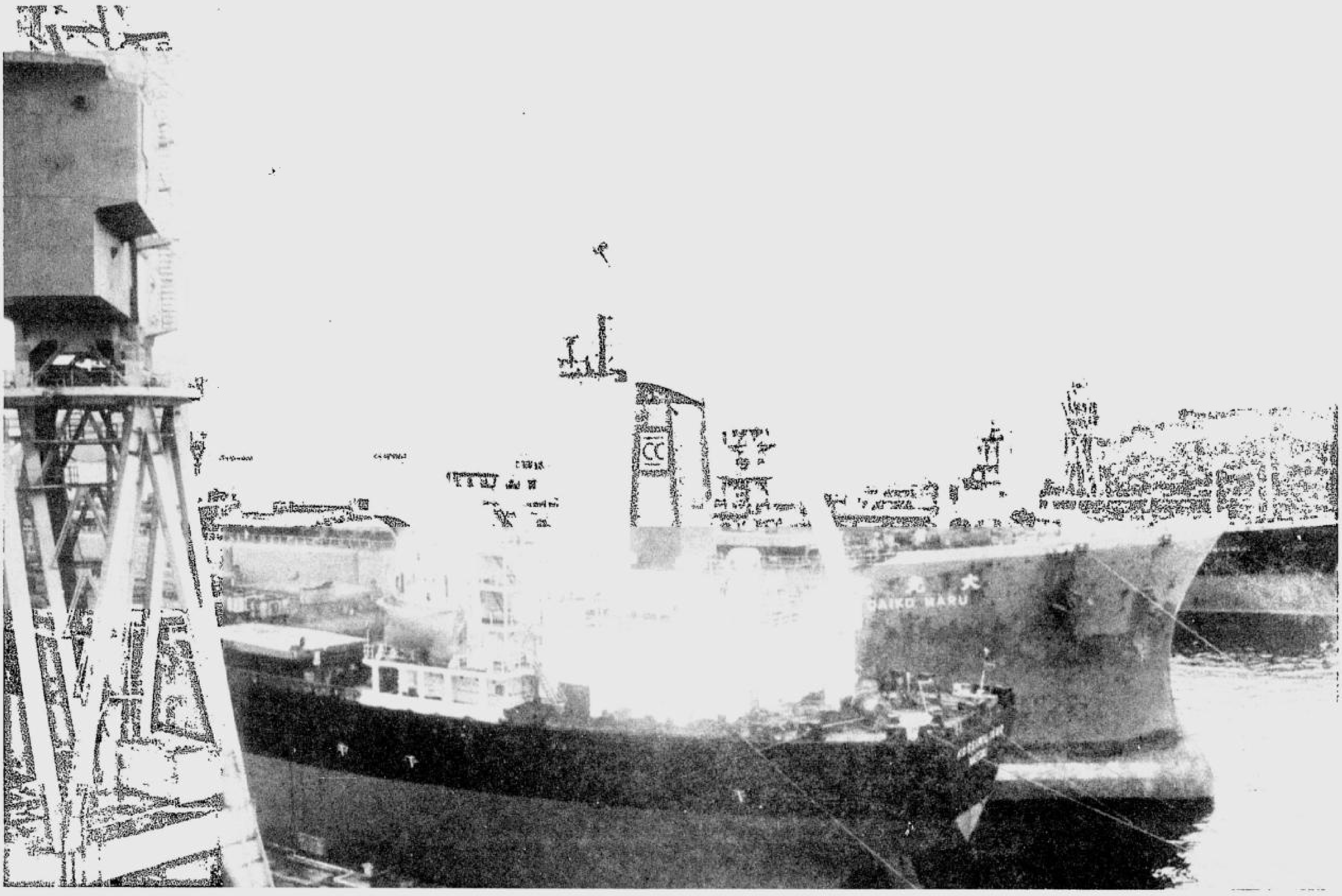

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PERSONAL

COSMETOLOGY

FREE SKIN FACIAL 8951381

HEALTH/FITNESS

BE SLIM 2443937

Slimming Program 5219683

MASSAGE

752-3149 WIND OFF M/F

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ASK JAMES M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8521874 100% HDSME

European Girl 09179824530

H-H-M-S MALE 7314018

Home-Hotel Srvs 0917-4308796

Male #16 Palanan 7320659

•NICE GUYS 4218450

PUREMASSAGE 09173939095

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

Scorpion Massg 4372542

D' Millenium Reflex Home/Hotel Srvcs 9347633

Reflex Luis 09175377022

RFLX 09192395660/8891997

VIP/0917-3849954/MALE

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LALUZ 5268216/5268270

MISCELLANEOUS

PC Parts Repair 9254960

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Affordable Maids 872-0265

BEST MAID PROV'L 7111602

BEST MAIDS w/NBI 853-3504

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

MAIDS 9124701 • 9124706

MAIDS w/CLEAR 807-5788

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LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

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•LBahay7251645/7441698•

LIPAT BAHAY 713-0878/716-9177

LIPAT BAHAY 824-1227

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

•LIPAT•731-6833

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 820-7068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESD'L

KALOOCAN

Caloocan GP 325m² Hse w/3 Stry 9283267

MANILA

2335m² Soler nr Avenida Recto P70M 3730597 Noli

MANDALUYONG

509m² LOT Area w/office & Whouse Parking LOT For 5 Vans Call 531-1151

•Addition Hills Nr. Shaw• 4000m² 22T/m² DBO 7215226

PASAY

F-B Harrison Pasay Comm'l Prop. LA900sqm 534-7949

PASIG

Pasig nr. Market 3sty bldg. w/income 5.5M 928-3267

QUEZON CITY

Kamias w/Comm'l Units 600m² P15M • 928-3267

Visayas Comm'l Unit 2Sty Lot 75m² 3.2M • 928-3267

MAYON QC w/6Units 480m² P22T/m² • 928-3267

Panay QC 1000m² w/2Hse 2Sty N Bung 26T/m² 928-3267

Kamias w/Comm'l Units 600m² 15M 9283267

Mayon QC w/6 Units 480m² 22T/m² 9283267

Nr. Moralo 7 Units Apt. 690m² 25T/m² 9283267

Nr. Retiro Banawe 267m² w/Hse 7M Nice 9283267

Panay QC 1000m² w/2 Hse 2Stry Bung 26T/m² 9283267

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OTHER AREAS

Palawan Comm'l Lots Ideal 4 Hotel,Rest, 0484332531

OTHER AREAS

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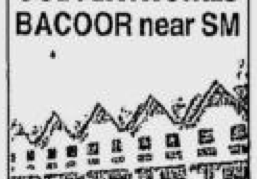
BACOOR near SM



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HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Alabang Hills LA450m² 3BR Den Nice P10M • 533-5525

AYALABANG 2Sly LA450 FA 400 4B 4TB Only 534-7949

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

AYALABANG 2Sty LA415 FA196 9.5M Only 534-7949

Ayala Alabang 2sty 3Bed 3TB 8.5M Only 534-7949

LAS PINAS

Auburn Bnew 2Stry 3br 2tb 2.2M Terms 8726951

BFR 3br 2tb 1.8M 3br 2tb 2.5M 8726951 / 8723140

BFR Bnew Cor. 2Stry 4br 4tb 2.9M 8726951

BFRes 180m² 3br 2tb 1.6M 1.8M 2.5M 8726951 • 8723140

BFRes 300m² Cor. 3BR 2TB 3.3M 872-6951 • 872-3140

BFRes BNew 2Stry Corner 4BR 4TB 2.9M 872-6951

Auburn Place New 2Stry 3BR 2.2M Terms 872-6951

Auburn Place 2.2M 2stys 3br 2tb new Term 8747234

Manuela 4A 192 @5700/m² Neg. • Tel.# 874-7234

BFRV 2.2M 3br 2tb Phone Neg LA144 FA90 874-7234

BFRV 2.6M Neg 2sty 4br 3tb B-New 874-7234 Pepe

BFRV 2.7M Neg LA341 2BR 1TB FA70 • 874-7234

BFRV 2.5M 3br 2tb Phone 2Carport LA180 • 874-7234

BFRV 2.2M 2sty 3br 2tb Single Terms • 874-7234

BFRV 2.7M Neg 3br 3tb 2carport LA186 874-7234

LPinas New 2Stry 3BR 2TB 2.2M Terms • 872-6951

BFRes BNew 2Stry 4BR 3TB 3.8M Terms 872-6951

Pilar BNew 2Stry 4br 3TB Nice P2.7M • 872-6951

Donavil 192m²-6T 8713088 GDiaz 309 CL 6M Neg

LAS PINAS/ BACOOR
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873-5949 • 874-2175

MAKATI

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income Tel 928-1469

Magallanes Subd. - Makati H&L LA367 3BR 643-5313

Magallanes LA612 FA550 2sty 5B Den 7cg 534-7949

MANILA

Binondo old/hse190m² 11M Near Lavazarez 413-4411

L. Guinto 323m² 2Stry 3br Nr Sch @11M 8440130

MARIKINA

Good Buy @ 8.5M very nice Tri-Lev LA600 Big pool 8253244

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

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LOC. NR RXAS BLVD.
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PARANAQUE

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PASIG

Valle Verde 4BR House New w/Pool • 635-6722

Nice Valle Verde w/Pool 4BR Elegant 1277-37052

Pasig City H&L A-250m² P2.5M • 534-6610 Jojo

Psg Bo Kapitolyo H&L New 5BTB 24hrs H²O • 643-5313

Valle Verde LA840 FA600 4br 6pkg Elegant 681-2457

VVerde 5 LA420 3BR P20M 1100 Cor P39M • 723-2391

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QUEZON CITY

** Nr Ateneo 4M 1Own Pbuild as /Spec w/View 6453731

Villa Paramita Scout Boromeo nr Bohol 9283267

Baler St. QC L-3500/m² Whse 18T/m² Tel 928-1469

Greenmeadows LA805 FA650 6br 8pkg Jacuzzi 681-2457

•GSIS Hills C-5/Quirino Hi. New 3.9M LA300 4br 7215226

HL White Plains P25M-15 & 11.5M 911-7940

U.P. Village QC LA400m²-600m² 6M-15M • 533-5525

D. Tuazon SMH LA411/m² Tel. 928-1469 • 453-4877

Roosevelt Q.C. LA624m² wHse 928-1469 • 453-4877

Maginhawa U.P. Vil H&L LA650sqm P10M 633-4107

Mayon St. SMH. QC A-960m² 534-6610 • 818-8569 Jojo

NEW MANILA 1481-114621

North Olympus 4173705

nr ATENEO 4M&up 6453731

Nr Ateneo FA315 LA268 H²O Ok w/View 12M 6453731

Porj7 nr SM City LA200m² FA450 2crg 5BR 4TB w/ Attick P7M neg T415-8218

RENT OR SALE
2Bdrm-FF Burgundy Plaza Across Ateneo T#927-4517

Samat St. w/5sty Bldg 600 SMH QC Whse 9298376

SCT AREA 5BR NEW 2420922

Sikatuna Bung LA412 4br FA250 8.5M Nice 6453731

Sikatuna Good Buy 438m² 3BR Den Basement 7.5M Call 921-5479 / 433-7194

Sta. Mesa Hts 240m² 3BR 3TB Mds Rm 5M 931-7898

Forest Hills Fairway Lot 590m² Nice Loc. 534-7949

E. Abada/Ateneo P24T/m² 1,500 10BR • 721-5226

Xavierville New Duplex 1481-114621

RIZAL

Birmingham Place Cainta 260m² 2.6M Rush 6334107

FILINVEST EASTVILLE Bung 3br2tb FA115 LA132 2kit. Cash/Term 677-1955

PROVINCIAL

AYALA Sta. Rosa (Phenix) LA205 FA159sqm 534-7949

Baguio House & Lot Good Location 531-3742

Tagatay 249.5m 2sty BNew Tel.# 453-4877

TAGAYTAY HL NEW 5239495

Tagaytay L286m² 2Sty Bnew 453-4877 • 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PROVINCIAL

TAYSAN BATS FARM 5239577

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownerlvngSF0917-8143792

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775

MAGALLANES HOUSE POOL AYALA SANTAROSA ESTATES 0-8184966/R-8106557

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near SM Bacoor
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WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
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873-0787 810-7183
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LOT

KALOOCAN

24.9 HECTARES P2T/sqm ROGER • 652-0227

Deparo Cal. City 5000m² VLot P3500T/m² 453-4877

LAS PINAS

BFR Rush 414 5T 526 5.2 5T 343 5.5ST 169 8726951

BFRV 180m² @ 6,500/m² Near Philam • 874-7234

BF Resort 169m² 176m² 180m² 6500/m² • 874-7234

BFRV 176m² @6500/m² neg near BlumField 874-7234

BFRV nr Abel Mosce 169m² 6500 • 874-7234

Manuela 4A Thru Verdant 192m² @5700 Neg 8747234

MANILA

A. Mabini VAC LOT 488m² @P50K/m² 8440130 Rosie

UNIVERSITY BELT
300sqm/444sqm
937-2622/937-2640

MANDALUYONG

9-de Pebrero Near Shaw A-1500m² • 534-6610 Jojo

MARIKINA

Marikina East 814m² VAC Mor Sun 16K/m² 8440130

Marikina Heights 1860m² P6.5M Neg. • 931-7898

MUNTINLUPA

Susana Heights 525sqm Rush Sale Pgr 1277-37052

VL Susaba Hts Subd. 500-890m² @P7T/m² 911-7940

Madrigal Business Park Lot-1710 8485519loc. 501

PARANAQUE

3500m²LA Sucat/Lease P140K 2000m²FA T-8268985/8294790

South Admiral Vill Lot 480sqm Pager 1277-37052

760m² lot w/improvements worth P3M pay for the lot only P15T/m² 8230670 Neg.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PARANAQUE

Maywood 288m² VAC LOT @7500/m² 8440130

Sucat V/L 724m² w/Old Hse at rear 22M neg. 643-5313

VL Multinational 600m² Terms Acceptble 911-7940

PASIG

**Greenwoods P5,100 Only w/Tambak • 671-4421

QUEZON CITY

** Capitol Dist 600sm 3800/sm 645-3731

E. Rodriguez (Espana Ext) QC 2407m² T3730597 Noli

•Acropolis 414m² P41T/m² •South DBO 721-5226

1000m² Alg EDSA Vac Lot Tel. 928-1469 • 453-4877

LA1640m² Tandang Sora V-Lot Tel.# 928-1469

Comm'l Lot 2127m² @P14T per m² Q-Hiway 911-7940

Corinthian Lots 40T up 7240394/7226578 0917-4792264

Del Monte Ave. QC 1600m² V-Lot • Tel 928-1469

Del Monte Ave QC LA-1711m² Vac Lot 928-1469

Tandang Sora QC L-1640m² P16T/m² • Tel.# 928-1469

Lincoln St. Roosevelt LA714m² 928-1469 V-Lot

Loyola Grand 600m² @ P8500 Call 09185079799

Ma Clara Nr. Banawe 1Tm² 23T/m² 724-0394/722-6578

New Mla QC 7449m² 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

**Nr Ateneo 900sm 5.5T /sm Nice Loc. 645-3731

Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg No Flood 6453731

QC 15th Ave 500m² 25T Neg Facing East 6453731

Sct. Cor Lot 1481-114621

TIERRA PURA LOTS 928-3267 • 141-210187

Sikatuna V 600m² 12M 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

Sta Mesa Hts 1481-114621

West Trl. 434 P10.8M Old House DBO 721-5226

400m² Makati/Taguig near C-5 & Golf "C" P5M •823-0670• negotiable

Cainta Vacant Lot 855sm Semi Industrial 6559393

TAYTAY 1H 3.2/m² 6453731

Taytay 1H Tikling 3.3/2 Nice Flat w'Road 6453731

Village East Binangonan 203m² cor. 5313742

SAN JUAN

** N. Domingo 300sm No Flood 20T/sm 6453731

PROVINCIAL

** Bat 4.6H 600sm 1Km Fr. Calabarzon HW 645-3731

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

635m² San Pedro Laguna P3,500/sqm T8230670 Neg BL

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 928-3267

Baguio Subd. LOT w/Pine Trees Tel. 5313742

Tagaytay Overlooking 679 Vac Lot Tel. 928-1469

553m² TAGAYTAY V-LOT TEL.# 928-1469

CALAMBA HILLS SUB-DIV. MAYAPA, CALAMBA, LAGUNA CORNER LOT 311m² NEAR SCHOOL 09192800275

Colbella Homes Tanauan Batangas 3Lots 5313742

Fort Magsaysay 18Has Resd'l P450m² 5313742

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PROVINCIAL

Grand Victoria N. Ecija 4 Lots 5313742

LA7049m² Commercial Lot Malinta Bul Tel. 928-1469

Malinta Bul 7049m² VLot Along Hiway Tel 453-4877

San Pablo Farm Lot 2.1HA P600/sqm • 842-1571

Puerto Princesa good 4 fstfood bank 0917-3711210

Southwoods Cavite 480m² Face South P7T 633-4107

Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780 & 805sqm • 723-2391

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 9283267

•Tiaong Quezon 3.6Hec• 600/m² Town Hway 7215226

Villa Segovia Sta Rosa 2 corner LOTS 5313742

VL 551m² P3.5M Pandayan Meycauyan • 911-7940

Ideal 4 Food Chain, Hotel, etc. Palawan 09173711210

OTHER AREAS

Comm'l Lot 2300m² P16T per sqm Malinta 911-7940

CL 600m² Malanday P16T /sqm Along Hway 911-7940

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

1BR Furn Salcedo Village @ P3.5M • 911-7940

1BR Nobel Plaza FA45m² @P3.5M Makati 911-7940

•Le Domain PH 102m² 2BR 1carpk 5.9M Tel 412-1825

A/R Greenbelt 1-3BR 7Mup 4121825 / 09177914366

2B Salcedo Makati F-Furn 2T&B 1cg P3.9M 534-7949

Asia Tower Frt Greenbelt Studio FF P3.0M 534-7949

Prince Plaza FA32m² SP Studio P2M Only 534-7949

The Peak Salcedo FA60m² 1Bed Fully Furn 534-7949

MANILA

Espana Mla New LA60m² 140m² 3BR P4M 533-5525

MANDALUYONG

Mandaluyong 1br new 77m² +Amenities 2.4M 5335525

Mandaluyong 4BR LA60m² FA150 P6.5M • 533-5525

Rush!MegaPlaza 48.50sqm 1br 2.7MNeg 09178143792

Sedar-Ortigas 5.2M 3br/3tb Rush!142sqm 09178143792

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 534-6610 Jojo

WACKWACK THomes 93 sqm 2BR 3.2M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

PARANAQUE

Nice BF TH Furn 3BR 1TB 1CG P3.5M • 911-7940

Rush B/Living 2Stry 75sqm 800T AC 0917-6011115

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

AIC Gold 200m² 4BR 7.2M Rent@P60T 412-1825

**Nr C5 FA62 3Br 2Tb 1.7o Lmt 5Yrs 2 Pay 645-3731

**Nr C5 Res/Com TH 6M 357FA 156 0 Int 5Y 645-3731

Office Condo Ortigas 38Th /m² Cell 09174149898

Ortigas 5yrs Zero Interest S123BR 6712049/6719651

Renaissance Twr 634-8160

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P1.3EZterm swap ok RFO rent 2 own amenities big disc. 9132224 4381480

** Nr EDSA FA 64 LA50 2Tb Bn Nice Loc 2.7M 6453731

Nr Robinsons Galleria 3br P55T/Month or P9.5M 2br P6M 0917-8986655

SCOUT THSES 4-7M Nice 3Sty • 928-3267

B.Gonzales X'ville 98m² 2BR nice Vent w/ Prkg P2.1M 9215479 / 4337194

BURGUNDY Plaza QC 2BR 2.5M 5312021 0917-3955738

Bnew Gilmore / N. Domingo P3.6M 90m² 2br DBO 721-5226

Atherton 3.9M 3BR Bnew 4121825 / 09177914366

New Mla Nr St Lukes 9M 3Sty 4br 2cg New 4134411

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*NR ATENEO P3.8M 3BR 4TB 1CG T-433-2923

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Scout Thses 4-7M Nice 3Stry 9283267 9283267

RIZAL

CaintaTownhouse3BR 2TB LA155 FA90 6559393

SAN JUAN

Addition Hills New CONDO Nr Shaw w/Grg FF 114m² 2Br 3Tb Mds UR Hol H²o 3.4 Neg 726-1221

Annapolis Greenhills 3BR Condo w/View 928-3267

Annapolis Greenhills 2-3 BR 7-8M 9283267

Nr G'Hills LA67 FA200 3br 7M 2Cg Nice 6453731

One Beverly FA193m² 3BR 3TB P8.7M • 911-7940

PROVINCIAL

TH Marcos Hi-Way FA108 sqm P1.7M • 911-7940

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park Now Open Several Lots • 671-4421

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

FONTANA SHARE 200T 928-3267 • 141-210187

Fontana Share 200T 9283267 / 141210187

FACTORY/WHSE

Warehouse 2,500sqm Nr. Tutuban 0917-8986655

FARM/FISHPEN

4HA Buko Frt Trees with Road P80/sm Sn Miguel Mabilac Lga 652-0516

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

3620065 BRIONES 7AVE 2TB S/T

MAKATI

3BR P9T 3975C Yague bet. Zapote & P. Tamo Makati

Mkt. Apt. 4 rent T8954370

MANDALUYONG

Studio
1Br & 2Br Units 4 Rent Call Gina/Elynor 5321016 (Tel-efax) MDC Residential Bldg 101 Isaac Lopez St, Mand. City

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

ALABANG HILLS 5BR 4TB P35T Contact 141-283960

MAKATI

• Dasmarinas Vill Makati • 4BR 4383970 0917-7914379

Dasma Mkti 5br 4ba P140T 8133827/28

SANLO 3BR 5268048

SANLO 3BR T#5268048/49

QUEZON CITY

New Intramuros QC 120m² 2BR 1TB 2cg 10K 931-7898

RIZAL

RENT 2 OWN Country Homes Cainta P9T/mo. 656-6491

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Crown Tower Salcedo Vill 2BR 163sqm FF 896-6665

Galleria de Magallanes Mkt. Garden Atrium Home Setting 3BR/3TB pkng slot Country Club like amenities, swimming pool, gameroom, spa & gym. Aircond Pavillion Garden. Perfect for foreigners too. Call Cynthia 8311704/ 5518590/8317881

MAKATI 3BR 300m² 85T-100T/mo • 533-5525

PACIFIC PLAZA
3BR FF DIRECT OWNER NO COMMISSION NEEDED 7166269

MANILA

P5,500/mo.Malate Call 911-3361 / 926-4070

PASIG

ORTIGAS CENTER 2-3BR 40T-60T/month • 533-5525

VVERDE 3BR FA=250SQM P35-38T • 723-2391

VVERDE 6 2BR P19T 723-2391 • 0917-3848111

QUEZON CITY

3BR 2TB 13T 4310585

Bnew Garden Island Gilmore P24T 2BR 2TB FA94 7215226

SAN JUAN

2BR 3TB 90sqm P20T mo GREENHILLS •T8247758•

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 83.80m² 5313742

OTHER AREAS

Park Ave. Mansion 1BR Studio 6-10/mo • 928-3267

FOR LEASE

1-3 Hec P50-70/m² With Bldg Cell 0917-4149898

33,000m² Sn Antonio Quezon 30min.fr. Lipa City w/coconut, lanzones etc. •823-0670•

•CITIBANK TOWER• 133sqm Fully Carpeted Office Space w/ parking slots. CALL 7511743-44

•LOT-490m² A.Tuazon & 700m² A. Rodriguez Mkna 438-3970

Mindanao Avenue 1,400m² Lot with 400m² warehouse with Office 9291863 / 09175255919

Nice 3br 1tb Mds Rm w/tb Makati 165/T/mo 911-7940

Roosevelt Ave Lot 300m² 438-3970 • 0917-7914379

ROOM & BOARD

Mkti Apartel 500-700/day 3T-4.2T/wk ful/fur 8995386

BEDSPACE

Mkt Condo M/F Food/prkg 8906331

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

LOAN & MORTGAGE

Loans-Doctors, Dentist, Salary, Business 524-3197

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

P1800/mo Stalls
Malate T-400-6420/23
Sn Pedro Lag. 8086006/07

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

Ortigas Center Office 90sqm B. New Sale/Rent 0917-8986655

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

2/F Comm'l/Office Space for Rent 217sqm 78 Jup St Mkti Ave Call:8951368or8951733

30sqm office space 702 Shaw T-6314141/6315151 Lolit

8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive Ort. Center Pasig City 637-8101 / 637-8080

Ayala Ave 230m² & 245m² P350/m² Makati Ave 180m² P180/m² 8133828

COMMERCIAL SPACE 100m² along McA Hway nr Malls & Bank Meyc Bul. & W'HSE FA500-800m² nr McA Hway V. Reales Val. City P15T-up 292-2904 / 0056 / 09175382463

● PSE-TEKTITE ●
50m² FF 631-4648 / 57

Makati 4 Pre-School 75T LA400 Semi-Furn 534-7949

MALATE OFFICES 5268048

Off. Condo 60sqm unfurn MedPlazaOrtigas P16T/mo w/tel.,1 CR 1 parking Call GIGI 825-2546/2466 EMAIL:knii@info.com.ph

Ortigas/Makati 120-195m² 48T-97T/mo • 533-5525

Tektite-W 109+Pkg FFurn 350/sqm w/View 6334107

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A group of Companies engaged in services operating nationwide with offices in Quezon City is in need of:

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- Can work under pressure

Qualified applicants may send their application letter with resumé to:

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March 15-21, 2001

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March 15-21, 2001

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice on the loss of Manila Electric Co. Cert. #484546A w/982 class A shares under Maria Ocampo If no contest r'ced new cert. will be issued PDI-March23,30April6,2001

Stolen or lost ICR & ACR#E-037342. Finder, please return to the Bureau of Immigration or call Travel Counsellors, Inc. at 8170112 & 8154023/25.

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE · MANILA

March 30, 2001
Date

INVITATION TO BID

The PPA Port District Office Manila's Disposal Committee invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, the following properties/items:

DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE	:	LOCATION
One (1) lot STU Spare Parts	P493,550		Container Van at Pier 13, South Harbor

All interested bidders will be given the opportunity to inspect the abovementioned properties on appointment basis. For further details, including bid forms, rules and regulations, please contact the Administrative Services Chief, Resource Management Division at the PPA-PDO Manila Building, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila.

SCHEDULE

1. Issuance of Bid Forms - April 2-25, 2001
2. Pre-Bid Conference - April 30, 2001
3. Submission of Sealed Bids - May 16, 2001
4. Opening of Sealed Bids - May 16, 2001 - 2:00 PM
5. Venue - Conference Room, 3rd Floor, PDO Manila Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila.

Bid Forms, Terms of Reference and detailed list/description of abovementioned properties shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

PPA-PDO Manila reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect in the bids received and to accept bid or bids which is or are advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

For further details, including bid forms, rules and regulations, please contact the PBAC Secretariat, Tel # 527-76-01 loc. 215 or FAX # 527-47-04.

(Sgd.) **LEOPOLDO F. BUNGUBUNG**
Port District Manager / Chairman
PDO-Manila Disposal Committee

(PDI – March 30 April 2 & 4 2001)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE - MANILA

March 30, 2001
Date

INVITATION TO BID
SHORE CRANES FOR SALE

The PPA Port District Office Manila's Disposal Committee invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis, the following properties/items:

DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE	:	LOCATION
Liebherr Shore Crane No. 1	P11,386,275		MICT
Liebherr Shore Crane No. 2	11,386,275		MICT

Above floor prices do not include expenses incidental to removal of the crane/s which shall be for the account of the winning bidder.

SCHEDULE

1. Issuance of Bid Forms - April 2-25, 2001
2. Pre-Bid Conference - April 30, 2001
3. Submission of Sealed Bids - Not later than 2:00 PM of May 14, 2001
4. Opening of Sealed Bids - May 14, 2001 - 2:00 PM
5. Venue - Conference Room, 3rd Floor, PDO Manila Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila.

Bid Forms, Terms of Reference and detailed list/description of abovementioned properties shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

PPA-PDO Manila reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect in the bids received and to accept bid or bids which is or are advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

For further details, including bid forms, rules and regulations, please contact the PBAC Secretariat, Tel # 527-76-01 loc. 215 or FAX # 527-47-04.

(Sgd.) **LEOPOLDO F. BUNGUBUNG**
Port District Manager / Chairman
PDO-Manila Disposal Committee

(PDI – March 30, April 2 & 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Generation Company 1

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1-01-004 (PBT)

The Generation Company 1 with office at NPC Old Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila invites NPC ACCREDITED CUSTOMS BROKERS TO BID IN THE PUBLIC BIDDING FOR BROKERAGE SERVICES of approximately 9 x 20' std. Containers stc: Belt Conveyor under I.O. No. 001187-ESA.

The services required cover clearance of cargo from Customs custody and delivery to NPC-BCFTPP, Bo. San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas and return of empty containers.

The schedule of activities in connection with the public bidding is as follows:

Issuance of Bid Documents	- **April 03, 2001 — April 15, 2001**
Bidding Date/Time	- **April 16, 2001 at 10:00 AM**
Bidding Place	- **MMD Bidding Room Ground Floor, Port Area, Manila**

Bid documents shall be issued to accredited customs brokers from the Materials Management Division upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the Corporation.

For further information, please contact tel. nos. 527-48-78 & 527-48-80 loc. 242 & 228.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Officer-in-Charge
Regional Adm. & Financial Svcs.

(PDI--March 30-31, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Sogod, Southern Leyte

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDS FOR THE PROPOSED HIRING OF SECURITY GUARDS OF SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Southern Leyte State College of Science and Technology, Sogod, Southern Leyte is in need of eight (8) Security Guards to be assigned in the College Campus.

Interested bidders are requested to submit sealed bids at the SLSCST's Administration Office together with unexpired license as Security Agency.

Deadline for Submission of requirement and bid proposals will be on **May 3, 2001** at 4:00 PM at the Administration Office or at the Office of the College President. Pre-bidding conference and opening of the bids will be on **May 10, 2001** at 10:00 AM at the SLSCST Conference Hall.

SLSCST reserves the right to waive any formality or to reject or all bids received without any reason.

Address all communications to:

Mr. Valerio B. Cabalo, Chairman, Committee on Pre-Bids and Awards, Southern Leyte State College of Science and Technology, Sogod, Southern Leyte.

(Sgd.) **LEONARDO L. MANALO**
President

(PDI – March 25, 27 & 30, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines * Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for one (1) unit:
a.) Cardiovascular X-ray System b.) Mobile C-arm X-ray w/ digital imaging, vascular package & accessories. c.) Combined Cardiac & Peripheral CV X-ray System
Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.
List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Article of Incorporation & by-laws
3. Bus. License
4. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
5. ITR for the last 2 years
6. List of clients & contact person
7. Location Map of Office
8. DOH Accreditation
9. Certificate of Training/s for Service Engineers
10. Product list w/ Cert. of Exclusive Distributorship & brochure
11. Notarized Cert. of Authority to sign & represent the company
12. Certificate of major parts availability

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **April 20, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 & April 1, 2001)

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AIM at 33: From the evolutionist's eye

LOOKING for an AIM alumnus to tap for your next big project? Consider the odds. One would think that there is a good chance of finding one — given that the Asian Institute of Management has been around for 33 years with about 30,000 graduates from more than 60 countries. This seems quite a lot, but not sizeable enough to tackle the managerial requirements of the world's thriving 6 billion population, fifty percent of whom are in the Asia-Pacific hemisphere. Roughly, there's merely a one-in-240,000 chance of correctly signing up an AIM alumnus or alumna for the job.

Producing leaders and managers for the world has not been easy, after all. But to tell us why this is so, we found the one man who has made the most impact on the most number of AIM alumni since founding in 1968 – Professor Gaby A. Mendoza, former president and dean, management guru, holder of the K.T. Li Professorial Chair in International Management.

An uncommon man immersed in the world of business — with gusto and a hearty laugh, Mendoza succinctly put forth his greatest accomplishment in life: "I've educated a hell of a lot of people." Reportedly due for retirement this year, he frankly admitted that if there was one thing he'd miss most about AIM, it would be teaching. "After I retire, I hope to continue teaching. It is definitely more interesting than running a business. Every year you see new faces, you get new ideas. And you feel yourself getting younger and younger."

To know the difference between academic and corporate life, and contrast the changing managerial needs at critical junctures of Asian development — take it from Mendoza who has had his fill of both sectors and whose experiences straddle two centuries and several cultures. This management education pioneer recalls that the '60s was an exciting time to be both a student and a teacher of a graduate school for business, particularly in the Philippines. Mendoza cites three factors that led to the establishment of AIM and the development of B-schools in general.

- **The emergence of local business interests.** Mendoza notes that after the Second World War, Philippine business was dominated by foreigners, specifically Spanish and American. "During the war, there was a scarcity of goods, so many people went into the buy-and-sell business. Many were the sons of the (landed) rich — the Malay-Filipinos and the Chinese-Filipinos. After the war, they decided to go on with the business. There was a marked transition from the expats to the locals."

Mendoza recalls that the local businessmen were eager to learn how to manage their businesses and brought in foreign trainors to handle advanced management courses. Among the first students were up and coming scions of the Viratas, the Paternos, the Fernandez business families. "In effect, there was a transfer of power going on," he adds.

- **The Good Ateneo vs. La Salle Syndrome.** "They were both American-run and doing a good job – Ateneo was noted for liberal arts and law while La Salle was known for business and engineering. Then a Jesuit and an economist named Fr. Fritz Araneta became Ateneo president." His vision was the moment's imperative: more involvement in Philippine development meant starting the graduate school of economics, which became a part-time MBM program and in 1964, the first full-time MBM program.

"In a way, he invaded La Salle's territory," Mendoza, an Atenean, quips. While it must have intensified the schools' rivalry, "eventually, Ateneo and La Salle, with the help of the Harvard Business School decided: `Why don't we get together, tap the business community and put up one really good school?'" That "one really good school"' would eventually be AIM.

- **Harvard invades Asia.** "In the 1960s, Harvard Business School decided it was going to 'colonize' the world. It started putting up schools from India to Central America to Iran. Here in Southeast Asia, there was no real, topnotch, full-time Masters' school. When AIM came in, we had the market all to ourselves," reminisces Mendoza.

With AIM in place, everything seemed simple enough. "We were one school, one program: the MBM. But over the years, we have had to expand the meaning of AIM," he adds. From the MBM course, Mendoza says AIM evolved "complexly."

"Today we have even more degree programs. We have short programs for all kinds of companies. We have short programs for different industries." To meet their different needs, the AIM has become a complex system of programs and centers such as the Center for Development Management, the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship and the Executive Education Center for Lifelong Learning or EXCELL. [SEE inset for list of Programs, Centers]

Mendoza stresses that AIM was also constantly shaped by the demands of the social and economic environment. "In the 1970s, we started offering short programs in rural development management, since most of our economies are (still) focused on agriculture. In the '80s we set up a degree program on development management, the Master in Development Management. We were also asked to set up the one-year Master in Management — what our late AIM Governor from Malaysia, Tun Ismail bin Mohammed Ali, called the Volkswagen version of the MBM Cadillac, to fast-track managerial development in the region and opportunities to middle managers. This was followed by the Executive MBA, our corporate change program which affords executives time to combine work with learning. And a few years ago, after a thorough study by our current Dean and AIM alumnus Ed Morato (MBM '72), we set up the ME or the Master in Entrepreneurship, for people setting up their own businesses."

In the course of the same 33 years, every country in Southeast Asia has put up its own international-class graduate schools of business. How does AIM stand out? Mendoza is quick to point out that the schools that have been set up in Asia are actually "Western schools that are in Asia."

"In AIM, we're trying to make an institute that is Asian; that is concerned about the problems of Asia; that is concerned about the values of Asia. Harvard is not teaching entrepreneurship. Harvard is not teaching development management."

And with Asian population growth and economic expansion making it the fastest-growing region, the Mendoza perspective reinforces the institutional thrust — AIM is dead-set on understanding the intricate needs of Asian businesses and businessmen, and even of Asian entrepreneurs and socioeconomic leaders. Only then, Mendoza believes, can the Philippines and the rest of Asia compete with the rest of the world on level grounds.

"The challenge for us lies in fine-tuning the business systems of diverse cultures, and making them fit into a particular market or industry. We have to keep up with the movers and shakers of Asia. We've got a lot of tentacles out there finding out what is going on, and what will be going on," he declares.

Managerial wannabes headed for AIM are thus forewarned of the hard work that lies ahead. And for the rest of the alumni who think they've cracked the Asian puzzle — they are encouraged to face the Professor again in AIM's infamous caserooms known as "the pit." Ready to be repeatedly stumped by the most logical of minds - Mendoza's. *Aries B. Espinosa and Gertie A. Tirona*

So you want an MBA?

BY ARIES B. ESPINOSA

T'is certain, once you join the AIM's MBM program – in two years, there will be another you.

"Personalities and ways of thinking change a lot," says Associate Dean Gloria Chan, PhD, of MBM graduates whom she describes in metaphoric terms: from the cocoon springs forth a butterfly of many colors via a remarkable transformational process. That guarantee alone may be enough to motivate hundreds of aspirants to invest a sizeable amount of money and time into experiencing AIM's intellectually rigorous management courses.

As she gears up for the annual AIM Open House for MBM applicants on April 3, we did a quick walk-thru of the program's features with Dr. Chan which can be summed up thus: rigorous. She says you will be required to read three case studies a day, five times a week. Each case study is between 25-40 pages long. You must be ready to defend your position during lengthy caseroom discussions.

"The first year is always the hardest," she forewarns, "total adjustments in lifestyles have to be made for students to cope with the requirements.' Of course, there's always the dorm to move into so you can dedicate all your energies to your studies."

It's not just the case studies. At the end of the first year the "Action Consultancy" pushes you to actual field training. "You spend eight weeks with a company to do actual work for them on a limited scale, and you get to be called 'consultants,' which adds distinction to the status of an MBM student," she smiles.

By the end of the second year, the culminating "thesis" would be the "Managerial Research Report on Corporations." "You're not going to bluff your way through this. You will actually be studying the intricacies of an existing company and compose an action plan or strategy for its future," Chan emphasizes

The top 40 percent of a batch have the chance to participate in the AIM's exchange program with prestigious business schools in Europe and the United States.

The bottom line is that for the transformation to take place the student must cooperate with the faculty. "We must respect each other for results to happen."

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• Master in Business Management (MBM) – 2 years • Master in Management (MM) – 11 months • Master in Development Management (MDM) – 11 months • EMBA: Corporate Change Program – 18 months • Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) – 18 months

Non-degree programs

• Pre-Master in Business Administration (Pre-MBA) – 6 weeks • AIM CEO Forum (Top Management Program) – 9 days • Management Development Program (MDP) – 8 weeks • Basic Management Program (BMP) – 4 weeks • Finance for Senior Executives (FSE) – 3 weeks • Service Marketing (SM) – 2 weeks • Marketing Strategy Course (MSC) – 2 weeks • Course for Senior Bank Managers (CSBM) – 3 weeks • Managing Family Corporations (Famcor) – 1 week • Advanced Insurance Management Course (AIMC) – 2 weeks • Program for Development Managers (PDM) – 4 weeks • Program and Project Development and Management (PPDM) – 4 weeks

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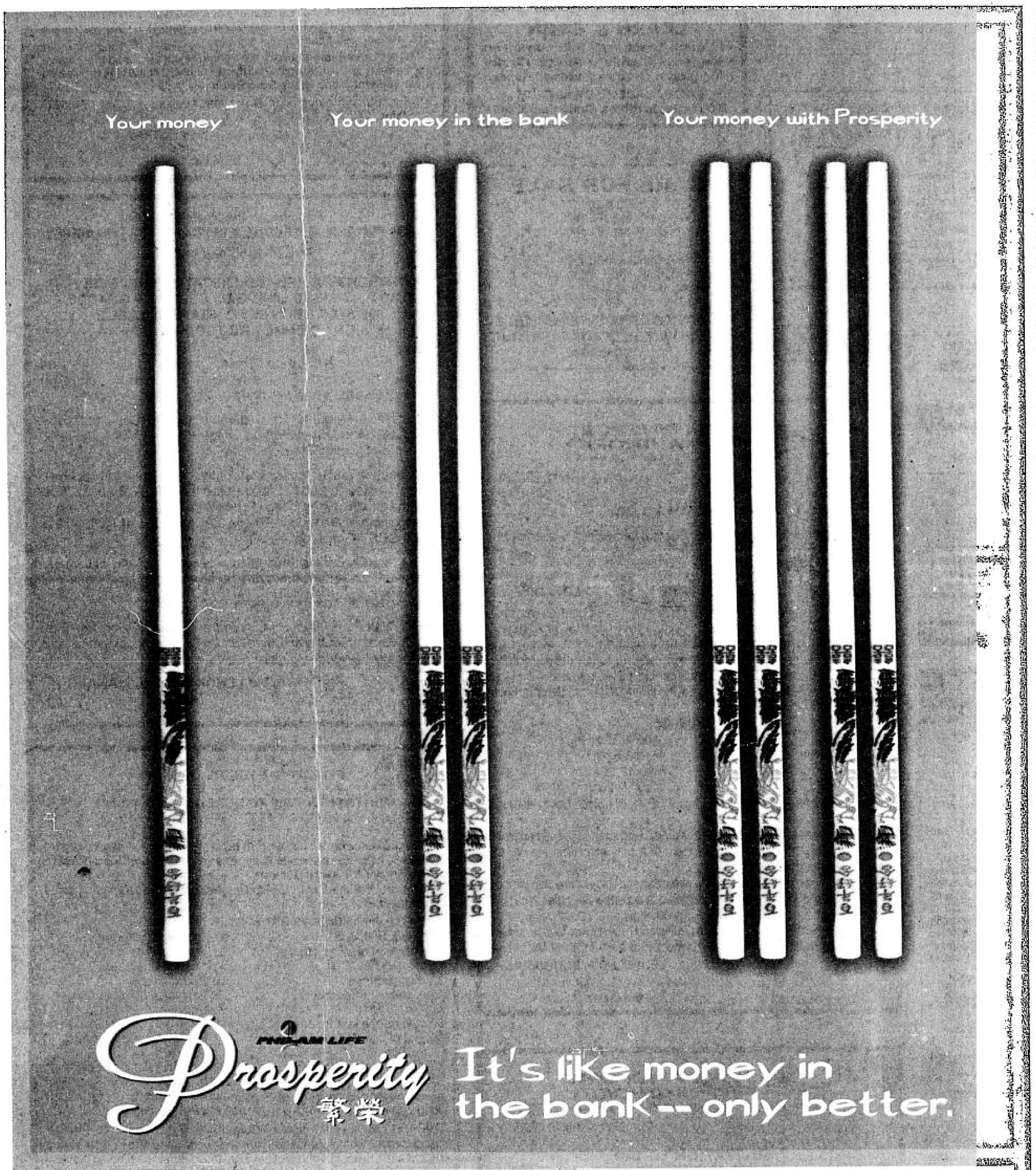
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Republic of the Philippines
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) toward the cost of the Second Subic Bay Freeport Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the following contracts:
   - Supply and Installation of Sun Server Upgrades
   - Supply and Installation of New Server, Printers and Notebooks; and
   - Supply and Installation of LAN Upgrades.
2. The SBMA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery and installation of:
   - Sun E3000 Server processor and memory upgrades
   - New Unix Server (1), Various Printers (44) and Notebook PCs (2)
   - Switch-Routers (2) and structured cabling
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the international competitive bidding policies and procedures of the World Bank and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries.
4 Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from SBMA and inspect the bidding documents during regular office hours at:

WB-Foreign Assisted Projects Office
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Philippines 2222

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below:

Atty. Chito M. Cruz
PEAC Chairman
c/o Mr. Michael W. Wharfe
Subic II Project Manager
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Philippines 2222

and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 20,000 or USD 400. Payment will be by cashier's check. The bidding documents may be sent by courier to the bidder provided that applicable courier fees are for the account of the bidder. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address specified in the bidding documents at or before 2:00 p.m. of May 30, 2001. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of PHP 500,000 or USD 10,000. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend the opening of bids which will be conducted immediately thereafter.

(Sgd.) **Atty. Chito M. Cruz**
PEAC Chairman
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Tel. No. (047) 252-4543 to 4544
Fax No. (047) 252-4544 to 4545

(PDI – Mar. 30, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Invitation for Bids

Date: April 1, 2001
Contract Identification No.
World Bank Loan No. 4111-PH

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority ("SBMA") has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, towards the cost of the Second Subic Bay Freeport Project, and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Proposed Emergency Rehabilitation of the Substations and Distribution System.

   Bidding is open to all Bidders form eligible sources countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits published in January 1995, revised in January and August 1996, and January 1999.*
2. The SBMA invites sealed bid from eligible bidders for 24 month duration of the contract (12 month construction period plus 12 months defects liability period) for the Construction of the Proposed Emergency Rehabilitation of the Substations and 13.8 kV Overhead and Underground Distribution System at various locations within the Subic Bay Freeport Area.

The minimum post qualification requirements include:

(a) Successful experience as prime contractor in the execution of at least 3 projects of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract over last five years.
(b) Must have performed an average annual volume of construction works for the last five (5) years of at least P 250,000,000.00 or equivalent.
(c) Work as Prime Contractor on works of a similar nature and volume over the last five (5) years that include the following types and quantities of works:
   1. Rehabilitation of Field Substations with a capacity of 40 MVA.
   2. Maintenance and Overhaul of Power Transformer rated 69 kV and higher.
   3. Replacement of 13.8 kV Switchgear.
   4. Restructuring of Substations including replacement, rehabilitation and testing of parts and accessories.
   5. High voltage testing of 13.8 kV underground cables.
   6. High voltage cable termination and testing, rated 15kv and higher.
   7. Installation of Distribution line pole structures and pole top assemblies, reclosers and sectionalizers rated 13.8 kV and higher
   8. Installation, testing and commissioning of 69kv substation equipment and accessories or higher.

(d) Must have assured access to the major items of construction equipment required for carrying out the works including but not limited to High voltage test equipment for cables and High Voltage Equipment. Relay test Equipment, Hotline or Live line Distribution Maintenance equipment, wheel mounted cranes and lifting equipment.
(e) Must have the necessary Financial Reports for each year for the last five (5) years including balance sheet, profit and loss statement and auditor's report showing a sound financial position.

Complete postqualification requirements are described in the "Instruction to Bidders"!

3. Bidding documents are available for collection at:

Bldg. 222
Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 15,000.00 or US$ 300.00 at the:

Treasury Department
Bldg. 229
Waterfront Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

An additional amount of US$ 50.00 will be charge to overseas contractors who wish to obtain their documents by courier. The SBMA will promptly dispatch the documents by courier but under circumstances will it be responsible for late deliveries or loss of the documents so mailed.

Interested bidders may obtain further information at the office of the:

Project Manager, Subic II
Bldg. 222, Dewey Avenue
SBFZ, Olongapo City
Tel. No. (047) 252-4543
Fax No. (047) 252-4544

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of not less than PhP 3,000,000.00, and shall be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 PM on May 16, 2001 after which time the bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

PPMD Conference Room
Bldg. 225
Barryman Road
SBFZ

5. A pre-bid conference will be held on April 25, 2001 at 9:00 AM at the FAPO-WB Conference Room, Bldg. 222, Dewey Avenue, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

(Sgd.) CHITO M. CRUZ
Sr. D.A. for Support Services
and PBAC Chairman

(PDI--March 30, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Invitation for Bids

Date: **April 2, 2001**
Contract Identification No. **SBIA-1-Subic II**
World Bank Loan No. **4111 PH**

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority ("SBMA") has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, towards the cost of the Second Subic Bay Freeport Project, and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Subic Bay International Airport Improvements Project (SBIA-1-Subic II).

   Bidding is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines : Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits published in January 1995, revised in January and August 1996, and January 1999.*
2. The SBMA invites sealed bids from eligible bidders, for the 18-month duration of the contract (6 months construction period plus 12 months Defects Liability Period) for the Subic Bay International Airport Improvements Project, to undertake among others the construction of additional aprons (concrete overlays), drainage system, water and sewer facilities, and construction of a new FedEx Vehicle Entrance.

   The minimum post qualification requirements include:

   (a) Successful experience as prime contractor in the execution of at least one project of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract over the last five years.
   (b) Must have performed an average annual volume of construction works for the last five (5) years of at least PhP 250,000,000.00 or equivalent.
   (c) Worked as Prime Contractor on works of a similar nature and volume over the last five (5) years that include the following types and quantities of work:
      1. High Strength Portland Cement Concrete Pavement: 11,160 m²
      2. Construction /Erection of Minimum 20 meters Mast Light Towers : 6 Towers
      3. Reflective Pavement Markings = 700 m²

   (d) Must have assured access to the major items of construction equipment required for carrying out the works including a concrete batching plant, transit mixers, pumpcrete, cranes, graders, bulldozers, backhoe, dump trucks and water trucks, at all times.
   (c) Must have the necessary Financial Reports for each year for the last five (5) years including balance sheet, profit and loss statement and auditor's report showing a sound financial position.

   Complete postqualification requirements are described in the "Instruction to Bidders"!
3. Bidding documents are available for collection at:

   Bldg. 222, Dewey Avenue, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

   upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 15,000.00 or US$ 300.00 at the :

   Treasury Department
   Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

   An additional amount of US$ 50.00 will be charged to overseas contractors who wish to obtain their documents by courier. The SBMA will promptly dispatch the documents by courier but under circumstances will it be responsible for late deliveries or loss of the documents so mailed.

   Interested bidders may obtain further information at the office of the:

   Project Manager, Subic II
   Bldg. 222 Dewey Avenue
   SBFZ, Olongapo City
   Tel. No. (047) 252 4543
   Fax No. (047) 252 4544
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than PhP 3,000,000.00, and shall be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 PM on **May 24, 2001** after which time the bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

   PPMD Conference Room
   Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 3, 2001** at 9:00 AM at the FAPO-WB Conference Room, Bldg. 222, Dewey Avenue, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

(Sgd.) **CHITO M. CRUZ**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – March 30, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

'Food' money

Q. Where did the word 'bribe' come from?

A. Many English words that deal with companionship are rooted in the sharing of food. One such word is *bribe*, which, unlike most of the others, went from 'good' to 'bad.' It derives from the Old French *briber*, meaning 'a morsel of bread given to beggars.' From a peace of bread, *bribe* evolved into begging, then living by beggary, then theft, and finally blackmail and *bribery* is the modern sense.

First of All. The first sliced bread was the invention of a jewelry store owner named Otto Frederick Rohwedder, who started working on a slicing machine in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1912. However, a disastrous fire destroyed his prototype device and all his tools and equipment. In 1922, having secured financial backing, he resumed work on his machine, persevering in the face of discourangement from bakery traders who asserted that a sliced piece of bread would dry out too fast. In order to hold the slices together, Rohwedder designed a machine to impale them on sterile hat pins, but the pins invariably fell out. His next idea was to pack the slices in shallow boxes lined with greaseproof paper. Eventually he hit on the solution that was to make sliced bread a success: a machine which cut the bread and then sealed it in a wrapper. This was in January 1928, by which time he had moved to Battle Creek, Michigan and it was here in May of that year sliced bread first reached the dining table when a local bakery ordered one of Rohwedder's machines and started regular production.

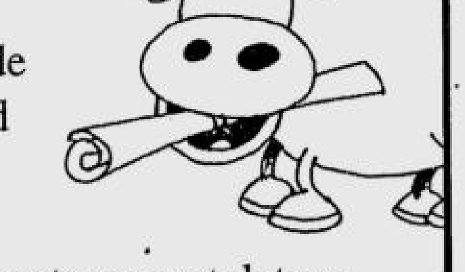
Past Forward. This day in 1858: Hyman Lipman of Philadelphia patented a pencil with eraser. Before this, people used separate erasers when writing, drawing, and figuring. Hyman later sold his patent for $100,000.

WORD WATCH

Bura : Tagalog corruption of the Spanish *borrar*, 'erase; scratch out.'

PDI--March 30, 2001

SUCCESS!



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NOTICE OF AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that pursuant to the provision of its Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and Members ' Handbook, The Orchard Golf and Country Club, Inc. (the "Club") will auction to the highest bidder the following Class "A", "B" and "C" shareholders certificates, default having been made in payment of outstanding obligations to the Club thereby secured:

Stock Certificate	Class	Registered Owner	Name of Member
C-00488	C	Caneland Sugar Corp.	Caneland Sugar Corp.
A-01083	A	Southwest Maritime Corp.	Santos, Arsenio Benjamin
B-00308	B	Sim, Moon & Sim, Elvina	Poa, Eusebio L.
C-00382	C	Veem Entertainment Innovators	Mendoza, Miguel A./Mendoza, Efren Jr. R.
C-00154	C	Reynolds Phil. Corp.	Verzosa, Ernesto S. (2 Nominees)
A-01035	A	Bautista, Jansen Jesus M.	Bautista, Jansen Jesus M.
A-00197	A	Go, Jimmy Tan	Go, Jimmy Tan
A-01765	A	Koh, Manuel	Koh, Manuel
A-00083	A	Bautista, Jaime/Bautista, Carmelita	Bautista, Jaime Orbeta
C-00033	C	Smoothline Ltd. Phil. Inc.	Yang, Seung Chun
B-00342	B	Kim, Jong W. & Kim, Hye S.	Kim, Jong Won
C-00562	C	Becco Phils. Inc.	Kim, Chang-Seok
B-00094	B	Morosawa, Fumiaki	Morosawa, Fumiaki
C-00548	C	Nouvelle Foods Inc.	Lim, Edwin B.
A-01841	A	Lim, Jimmy	Lim, Jimmy
B-00370	B	Ai, Soo Koon	Ai, Soo Koon
A-01794	A	Chua, George L. & Tan, Corazon D.	Chua, George L.
A-00604	A	Cebrero, Luis D. & Cebrero, Sandra	Cebrero, Luis D.
C-00020	C	Metrolab Industries, Inc	Metrolab Industries, Inc
A-00507	A	Ward Management Corp.	Roqueza, Ricardo S.
C-00433	C	Hi-Prestige Enterprises Corp.	Co, Elizabeth Rachel
B-00237	B	Jakubec, Ladislav	Jakubec, Ladislav
C-00048	C	Seachamp International Export C	Michiki, Shigetoshi
A-01361	A	Tan, Chi-Wan C.	Tan, Chi- Wan Chua
C-00281	C	Durex Industries Corp.	Durex Wires & Cables
A-00907	A	Kho, Benjamin Y.	Kho, Benjamin Y.
C-00115	C	Multi-Mach International Inc.	Capistrano, Almario P.
A-00781	A	Salientes Jr., Manuel C.	Salientes Jr., Manuel C.
A-01419	A	Yao, Jeanne L.	Yao, Jeanne L.
A-00820	A	Chua, Edita Lim	Chua, Edita Lim
A-01898	A	Lastimoso, Roberto F.	Lastimoso, Roberto F.

The Rules Governing the Auction of Delinquent Shares are available at the Membership Office starting on **March 31, 2001.** You may call Ms. Chiqui Bulaong at telephone numbers (632) 843-8333; 42; 44; 49; 50; 53 & 61 or (046) 416-5931 to 35.

Interested parties are invited to attend the pre-auction conference on April 21, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. at the Aguinaldo Room, Orchard Golf and Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The auction proper shall be held on April 28, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. at the Aguinaldo Room, Orchard Golf and Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

(Sgd) **Atty. Jesus A. Liganor**
Asst. Corporate Secretary

(PDI--March 30, 2001)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Jose L. Gantioqui, Jr., MD

of Arayat, Pampanga and Davao City

Chairman Emeritus and Former President
Davao Doctors Hospital

who joined his Creator on March 22, 2001
at the age of 83.

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who sent flowers, donations, offered Masses and prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites, helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you very much.

In Loving Memory of

FELIX ORDAS ALFELOR SR.

Outstanding Governor Province of Camarines Sur 1970-72
Founder University of Northeastern Philippines
on his
20th Death Anniversary, March 30, 2001
89th Birth Anniversary, May 2, 2001

The Schedule of Masses will be the following churches:

1. St. Anthony of Padua Parish Iriga City	5:30 A.M.
2. Our Lady of Fatima Shrine San Isidro, Iriga City	6:15 A.M.
3. Divine Mercy Chapel UNEP, Iriga City	3:00 P.M.
4. Parish of Our Lady of Peñafrancia Naga City	5:30 P.M.
5. Parish of St. John Metropolitan Cathedral, Naga City	7:00 A.M.
6. Our Lady of Immaculate Parish Conception Pequeña, Naga City	5:30 P.M
7. Parish of San Francisco Naga City	5:30 P.M.
8. Peñafrancia Basilica Minore National Shrine, Balatas, Naga City	5:00 P.M.

We, **Dr. Remedies R. Alfelor** and my children, **Ex Congressman Ciriaco** (+) and **Alma Yorobe, Atty. Felix Jr.** and **Emma Garchitorena, Dr. Filipinas, Eleanor, Delicia and Arch. Eduardo Tibi, Mayor Emmanuel** and **Madelaine Tosoc, Ariel** and **Ida Lee, Dr. Rupert and Jina Luz Zamudio** and all grandchildren and great grandchildren request all his loved ones, relatives and friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for him.

We would like to thank everyone, who in any way or another, became a part of Felix Sr.'s meaningful life.

NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Maestro Redentor L. Romero

August 25, 1929 - March 28, 2001

"One can live without music, but not as well"

We, his family, daughter **SOPHIA**; and husband, **Dan Schwartz**; son **CARLO**; grandchildren **Eli** and **Amalya**; sisters **Judge Nelly Valdellon, Victoria Garin, Rose Mittenthal**; brothers **Ramon, Jr.**, and **Cornelio Quiguyan**, request you to join us in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment will be on Sunday, April 1, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, immediately following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Sanctuario de San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

HECTOR L. TAN

of Calamba, Laguna

Born January 6, 1931

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 27, 2001 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Purificacion Tee Vda. de Tan**; and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Hectan Chapel, Lecheria, Halang, Calamba, Laguna.

Interment will be on Wednesday, April 4, 2001, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. at the Rizal Cemetery, Calamba, Laguna.

Masses and spiritual prayers will be appreciated.

"Praise the Lord!
Happy is the person who has reverence for the Lord,
who takes pleasure in obeying his commands."
Psalm 112:1

DR. ROSALINA GO VERA

Loving wife of the former Commissioner Misael P. Vera (†)
has peacefully joined her Creator on March 28, 2001 at the age of 85.

Her bereaved children **CAROL** and **TEDDY, JUN** and **BABY, RUBY, NINI** and **ROLLY**; grandchildren **MICHAEL, NEIL** and **GRACE, RACHEL** and **PHIL; JOEL, NOEL** and **LUZ, MARIEL, LIZ, ELAYNE, ELYA; JM, VG, ROSBY, RUBY ANN, KERI LYNN, ED; RAYMOND, ROSALIE** and **RICO, GIGI, DEEDEE**; great grandchildren **BRIAN, HANNA; MIRO, LARA, CARLOS; GIANNA; ENZO**; brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills.

Interment will be held on March 31, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donation to the MISAEL P. VERA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.

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Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

Youngsters have fun with new 'codes'

Today's teens have developed a lingo of their own using codes that only their generation can understand. More so with the texting and the Internet scene which has developed a life of its own with terms such as "asl'' (age-sex-location) , "lol'' (laughing out loud), "eb'' (eyeball), "btw'' (by the way), and "l8r'' (later). Codes have become keys to coolness and passports to a good time for the youth.

Through the years, Coca-Cola has been an indispensable witness to all sorts of gimmicks around the world. Attuned to the times, Coca-Cola came up with its latest and most innovative: the "GimiCodes.'' Every time you buy a 12 oz or 1 liter bottle of Coke, Sprite, Royal Tru Orange or Lift, look under the specially marked ``GimiCodes' crown where you'll find either an instant prize of a free 12oz bottle of Coca-Cola or "GimiCodes."

More than 30 million 12oz Coca-cola are being given away to lucky Coca-Cola drinkers. Free Coca-Cola products may be redeemed by bringing the winning crowns to thousands of designated redemption centers such as nearby *sari-sari* store, groceries, school and office canteens and Coca-Cola sales offices and plants all over the country.

To win cash plus a bonus *gimik* gadget, just collect your "GimiCodes" crowns and tune in daily to ABS-CBN Channel 2 every 12 noon from March 12 to April 21, 2001. The "GimiCodes" winner will receive P100,000 cash plus a *gimik* gadget of the day such as a cellphone kit, portable VCD/CD player, trendy camera or a Coca-Cola G-shock watch. If you miss the noontime game portion, watch the evening recap of the winning "GimiCodes" of the day on Channel 2.

No more difficult raffle stubs to fill out or questions to answer. It's easy as drinking and winning.

GLOBE TELECOM
as fast as the i can see

CEBU IS IT!
Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas checks out the information technology (IT) products of industry leader Globe Telecom, which sponsored the ongoing Cebu 1st I.T. Summit (until March 30). During the summit opening, Cebu City bared its plans to become the most competitive IT hub outside Metro Manila. Secretary Roxas outlined how the government can provide a healthy IT-investment environment, while Globe Telecom unfolded its plan to help transform the Queen City of the South into a premiere Philippine investment destination for IT and IT-related industries—based on its mother company Ayala Corporation's New Economy directions, from wireline to wireless data business, with emphasis on broadband communications.

A better shrink-wrapping machine

Compack Machinery Corporation's president Florencio Tan announced recently the improved shrink-wrapping machine Compack 550S. The technical improvement involves expansion of the use of films. The Compack 550S can now seal and shrink both PVC and POF films.

The frequency of its motor is also adjusted to Philippine standards—between 50 to 60Hz. Thus, the breakdown rate of the motor is minimized. Other brands' motors are fixed at 50 Hz.

"While underscoring technical excellence, responsive service to our customers is also a priority in our operations," said Sid Valencia, Compack marketing manager. "Our people always strive for technical and service competence. For more than a decade of combined management experience in the field of vacuum and shrink packaging systems, our customers are assured of regular and quality after sales service," Valencia emphasized.

MOA SIGNING
Rhine Plans Corporation and Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Inc. recently signed a memorandum of agreement. Prudential Guarantee will provide plan holders and sales associates of Rhine Plans a 24-hour group insurance coverage. Photo shows, from left, Rhine Plans vice president for marketing operations Joseph Hammond Jr., Prudential Guarantee president Philip K. Rico, Rhine Plans executive vice president and chief operating officer Roberto O. Fruto, and Prudential Guarantee vice president for accident and health Johnny I. Hernandez.

FAMILIARIZATION TOUR
Members of the newly created Board of Agriculture of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) conduct a familiarization tour of Foremost Farms, Inc. – one of Asia's largest and most modern hog raising facilities. Owned and operated by industrialist Lucio C. Tan (fourth from left), Foremost Farms, Inc is located in a sprawling 150-hectare facility in Barangay Pinugay, Baras, Rizal. Tan and former PRC chair Dr. Hermogenes Pobre (fifth from left) lead the familiarization tour of the following members of the Board of Agriculture (from left) V.L. Sonny Domingo, Nora Inciong, Fortunato Battad, (chair), Arturo Orig, Gonzalo Catan, Jr., and Rodolfo Ela.

BITS & Clips

Way of the Cross at Luneta

This year, the Samahang Nazareno, Inc., in cooperation with the Cainta Jaycees Inc. and other civic organizations of Cainta, Rizal, will reenact the Way of the Cross at the Luneta Park on April 8. The stations will be set up at the Central Lagoon area. The Samahang Nazareno Inc. is a Gawad CCP awardee for Culture and the Arts. Since its founding in 1960 it has been staging the life and passion of Christ. For details, log on at www.skybusiness.com/samahangnazareno-inc or write to its president Felix Pagkatipunan Jr. at e-mail Samahangnazinc@Skybizz.com.

Flagship projects of RC Rizal

Charter president Renato Reyes of the RC Rizal SouthWest announced its flagship projects for 2000-2001 at the Governor's Visit at Rockwell Club recently. District Governor Hugo "Jun'' Perez acknowledged the relevance of the projects. The flagship project, called "Operation: Nutrition Education and Feeding Program,'' involves selected sections from grades 3 and 4 of Tibangan Elementary School in Rembo, Makati City undergoing a soymilk feeding program for three months. The other club projects ongoing are: battle of the bands; on-the-spot-drawing contest; vitamin A distribution; donations to flood victims; tree planting at Angono, and medical and dental services.

PDA membership meeting and seminar

The Philippine Dental Association Pasig-Pateros-Taguig Chapter will hold its general membership meeting, sixth scientific seminar and election of officers for 2001-2002 on April 3 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bayanihan Hall, United Laboratories, Inc., Mandaluyong City.

TOON POWER
Cartoon Network, home of the Powerpuff Girls, Dexter's Laboratory, Johnny Bravo and Cow and Chicken, recently presented their 2001 on- and off-air programs to clients and friends at a party called "Toon Power." The event also featured a special appearance by The Powerpuff Girls and a "Who Wants To Be a Premium-Naire?" contest based on the popular game show of a similar name. Photo shows (from left) Liza Baumgarten, regional sales director, Turner International Asia Pacific; Rowena Alano, marketing manager-consumer incentives, Jollibee Foods Corp.; and Luigi Nunez, executive vice president, Far East Media Consultants, Philippine advertising representatives of Turner International.

TRAFFIC WITH FASHIONSENSE
TRAFFIC, a dynamic retail store offering imported high quality men's footwear, opened its second store at the ground floor of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Makati City. TRAFFIC offers styles that are synonymous to those seen in New York, London, Milan and Hong Kong. Styles include mules, strappy sandals, boots, casual slip ons and dress shoes. TRAFFIC has been a favorite among the working executives, the young entrepreneurs and the so-called "fashionable men." TRAFFIC has engaged the services of Intelligent Business Solutions (IBS) in implementing FASHIONSENSE 2000 Retail Management System. Shown in photo (from right) Michael Ngan, sales and marketing manager of IBS; Mark Chan, managing director of TRAFFIC; Marcelo Casillan III, managing director of IBS; and Doris Aura Pastoriza, POS consultant of IBS.

OBITUARIES

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ARTURO RONTOS GABUNA

(Retired Municipal Administrator of Makati City)

who joined the Lord on March 22, 2001

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses, prayers and flowers, visited and kept vigil, joined us in our rites and in one way or the other condoled with us and showed love and concern in our time of bereavement.

God Bless You!

In Loving Memory of

EDGARDO "ED" ROMANA LORICO SR.

who died in the Grace of our Lord on March 30, 2000.

We, wife **Lorie**; children **Jundie**, **Jojo**, **Gigi** and grandchildren wish to express our deepest gratitude to relatives, friends, sympathizers who shared with us on our great loss and how lovingly remembered him on his **first year anniversary.**

Holy Masses will be offered on March 30, 2001 at the following churches:

Our Lady of Abandoned *Marikina City*	all Masses
St. Joseph Church *Cubao, Quezon City*	all Masses
Our Lady of Abandoned *Dominique Street, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City*	all Masses

May we request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

ILDEFONSO LIMOSA ESPINO

Of Daet, Camarines Norte

Died in the grace of our Lord on March 28, 2001
at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Purita**; parents **Deogracias** (†) and **Maria Mercedes** (†); children **Noel**, **Sidboy**, **Elloy**, **Mercy**, **Diana**; brothers **Deogracias Jr.**, **Eduardo**, **Antonio**, **Alejo**, **Sinto**; sisters **Teofista** and **Carmen**; daughters-in-law **Arcelli**, **Cathy** and **Liezel**; grandchildren **Matmat**, **CJ** and **Ylai**; cousins, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence, Roseville Subdivision, Daet, Camarines Norte.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 31, 2001 at Risen Christ Memorial Park, after the 2:00 PM Mass at Saint John the Baptist Church, Daet, Camarines Norte.

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ANACLETO "BI" MERCADO HIZON

of San Fernando, Pampanga

Peacefully joined Our Lord on March 28, 2001
at the age of 52.

His loving wife **Ester**, sons **Vincent** and **Joseph**, sisters **Cory** and **Veetah**, brother **Cornelio**, sister-in-law **Sonia**, brother-in-law **Dammy**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Camia Chapel, Good Shepherd Memorial Park in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 31, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park.

Gov't plans lowering of vehicle tax

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is planning to reduce excise taxes on motor vehicles but at the same time limit exemptions that have been a source of leakage in tax collection.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said the government was planning to overhaul the tax system for automotive vehicles and come up with a scheme that would lead to a more efficient tax collection.

"We would like to rationalize the exemption for AUV's (Asian utility vehicles)," the finance chief said.

He said there was also a plan to stop using engine displacement as a basis for taxing vehicles.

At present, taxes on motor vehicles depend on the level of engine displacement, which means a stronger-powered car is slapped with a higher tax. AUVs and public utility vehicles are exempted from paying excise taxes and these two areas are where most of the leakage happens, the finance official said.

For instance, a car with a 1.5-liter engine or lower is subjected to a 15-percent tax while heavier vehicles with 3.0 liter engine or higher have to contend with an excise tax of 100 percent.

"We may have to restructure the motor vehicle tax and reduce excise taxes as we change the basis of the tax rate. We want to do this to reduce incentives for car owners to avoid paying taxes," Romulo said.

The finance department is conducting a study on how much tax leakage can be traced to car manufacturers which avoid paying the correct excise taxes.

Romulo said there was also a proposal to implement a uniform excise tax for all vehicles and only give rebates to public utility vehicles and Asian utility vehicles upon registration.

The current tax scheme exempts vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 and classifies these vehicles as AUV. In the past, car assemblers used this provision to produce sports utility vehicles like the Mitsubishi Pajero and Toyota Land Cruiser to get the exemption.

Other AUV brands include the Toyoto FX and Revo, Mitsubishi Adventure and Isuzu Highlander.

Last year, Ford Motors Corp. proposed to the finance department an overhaul of the tax structure on automotive vehicles and that excise taxes be based on the retail price instead of using engine displacement.

An industry source, however, said other car manufacturers were not so hot on the Ford proposal specially at this time when cost of production varies because of the volatile peso.

Benpres forms holding firm for e-business

By Elena R. Torrijos

BENPRES Holdings Corp., the publicly listed flagship of the Lopez family, is forming eLopez, a wholly owned unit that will act as the holding company for the group's new economy businesses.

In an interview with the INQUIRER at yesterday's launching of Union Bank of the Philippines' payment gateway facility, Benpres executive vice president J. Xavier Gonzales said four Benpres subsidiaries and affiliates involved in new economy initiatives will be folded into eLopez, which will oversee the running of these businesses.

The four companies include Bayantrade, Customer Contact Center Inc., Bayan Map and Corporate Information Solutions Inc.

Bayan Map is a wholly owned subsidiary of Benpres that markets geographic information systems and global positioning systems. eLopez will be one of the shareholders of Bayan Map after the transfer although still the dominant one, Gonzales said.

Bayantrade is a B2B electronic procurement portal equally owned by Benpres, Ayala Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Aboitiz Equity Ventures and JG Summit Holdings. CCCI is engaged in call center operations. CIS, a 51-percent owned unit of Benpres, is an information technology software development company that also runs payment collection outlets called Bayad Centers.

Benpres, on behalf of the Lopez Group of Companies, yesterday signed an alliance agreement with Unionbank enabling companies within the group to use the PORT, the bank's payment gateway facility. Short for Payments Online, Real Time, the PORT allows merchants who open bank accounts with Unionbank to accept payment for goods and services over the Internet, mobile phones and traditional point-of-sale card terminals through credit cards, debit cards, ATM cards, stored value and pre-paid cards.

Gonzales, who will also be chief executive officer of eLopez once it has been formally set up, also disclosed additional alliances with the Aboitiz group.

"We are talking about smart cards in a common platform leveraging this payment gateway and putting our CRM or our customers database businesses in alliance so we can actually offer much more of an integrated services financial platform to different customer communities," he said.

He also said that on the enabling service side, the Lopez group working on creating a knowledge service bureau concept was looking to partner with different individuals on the initiative.

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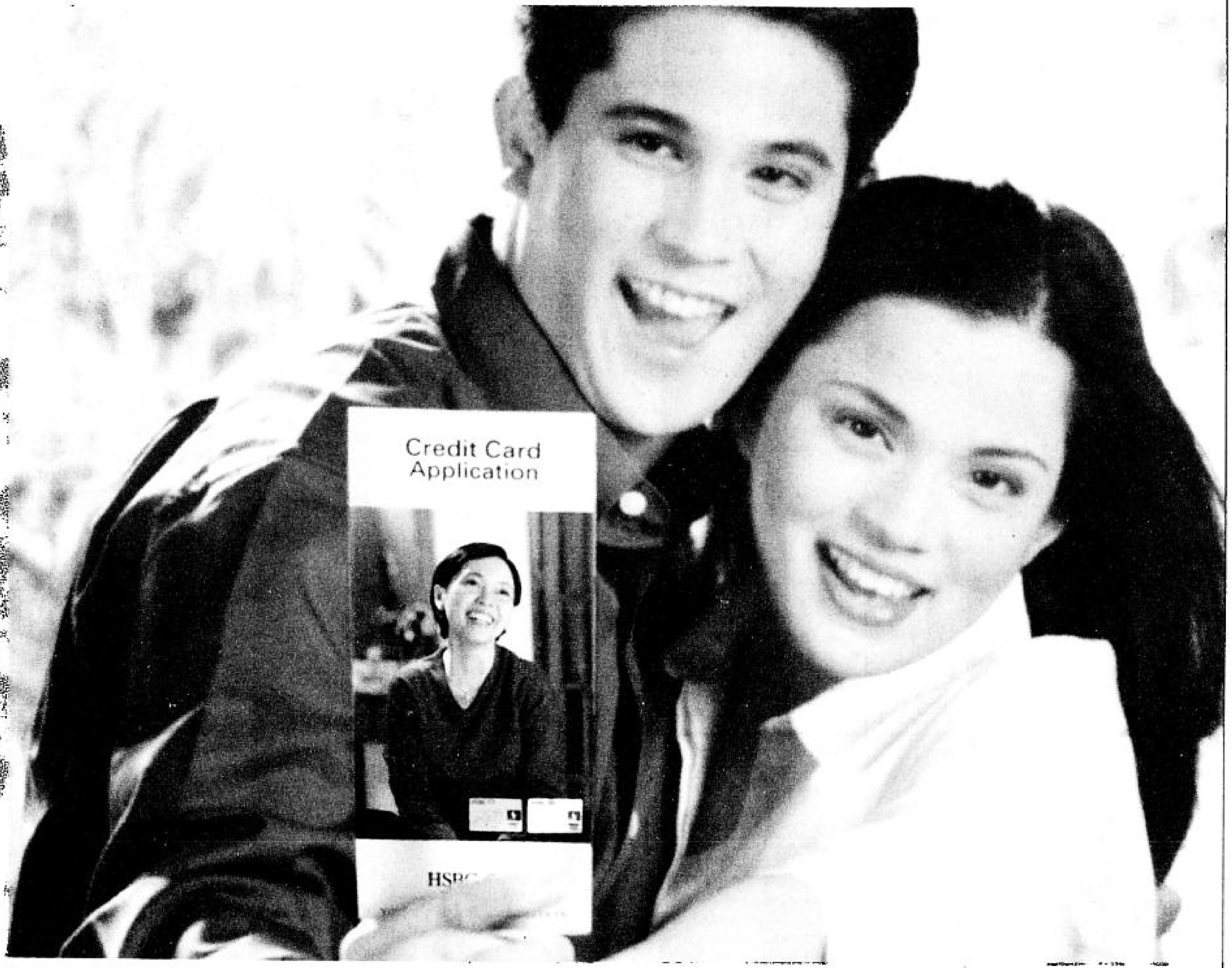

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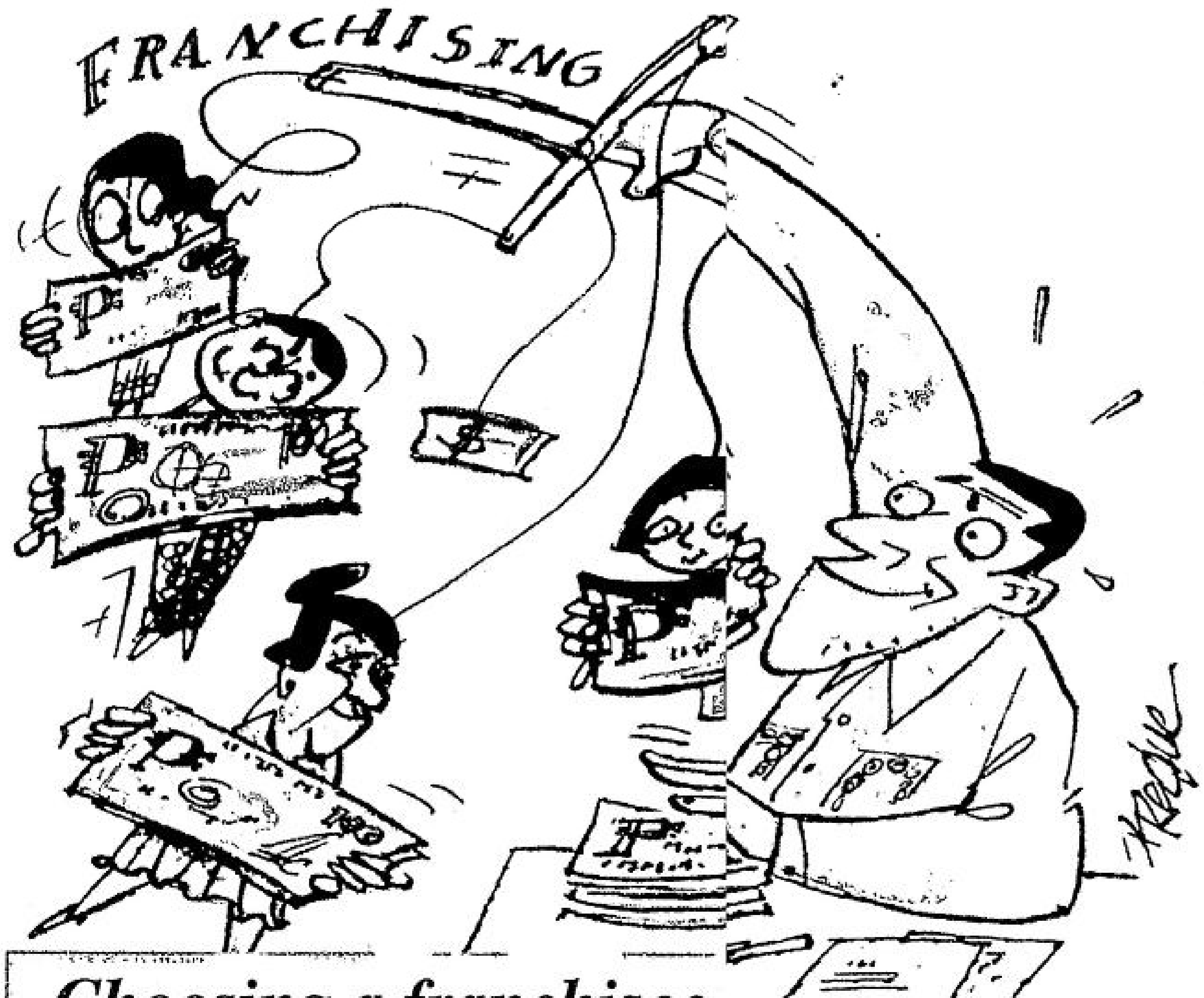
When to tap other)eople's money

By Margie Quimpo-Espino



SO YOUR sales have been growing from the day you opened. Crowds are a common site in your shop. You know it is time to expand, but you do not have enough capital to do so. You consider borrowing but the banks you approach say you need to establish a track record before they can lend you; or you can borrow against a collateral.

You think to yourself: Bankers are supposed to be smart so how do they expect you to establish a track record when you are just a start-up?

Franchising comes to mind. You think of the McDonalds and the Jollibees all over the city and you dream of having even just half of their numbers, or just one-fourth even.

We asked one of the gurus at the Asian Institute of Management to give some pointers to budding entrepreneurs as to when they should tap other people's money (and we don't mean the banks) to expand.

"There must be good acceptance on the original business. There must be consistent profits and good growth. If you already have all that, plus the competitive advantage of a product or a service that has not yet been matched; and that if it is located elsewhere, will enjoy success," says Jose M. Faustino, professor of marketing and organizational strategy and director for the marketing strategy course of AIM.

While he points out that success and consistency should have been maintained for at least two years, he singles out Zagu as an exception.

The proponent of the black pearl drink had only been around for a few months when it went into franchising and enjoyed tremendous success.

"Zagu was a totally new product but it hit the right side of the Philippine palate. Filipinos are sweet tooths, this is a warm country. The combination of the unique taste (of Zagu) with something solid, its quick dispensation and its freshness, acceptable pricing, made it successful," he says.

He points out though that "no drink that is only a drink survived. The typically successful restaurant had stars. Example of this is the Chickenjoy of Jollibee."

Good audit system

Faustino states that it is very important for firms who are going into franchising to have ood audit systems, a system of controls, be-re they go into franchising.

"One store can bring you down. You have safeguard your name. You have to have a ood audit control system. That is why you ave your mystery shoppers, your surveys. ou have to keep your franchisees honest," he ys.

"They should be doing things as you would it yourself. Humans always go for the path of ast resistance," he says.

He cites that McDonald's realized a few years o that it did not have full control of its system less it had full control of the real estate.

What it did was buy back the properties where its stores were located or struck long-term leases with the landowners. That way if its franchisees failed to meet its standards, it can just kick them out and get a new one, while maintaining its sites.

At the same time, Faustino says, franchisors should be open to suggestions from their franchisees. Faustino cites that the introduction of Chicken Nuggets came from a suggestion of a US franchisee.

Constantly studying your market is also a must. He points out that McDonald's realized that in many places, 60 percent of its sales comes from drive-thru purchases. This prompted the firm to convert one of its stores in Illinois, where its headquarters is, into a diner to attract more people inside the store.

Disadvantages

Faustino points out that a successful franchise is "like planting a money tree. Royalty comes from investments you do only once."

But there are disadvantages to franchising.

"You lose control over your brand and your business if you franchise it," he says.

"If you don't do it the right way, they will not serve the food warm, they will not treat your customers the way you would want them to," he adds.

He says that in the US, McDonald's franchisees are bound by a contract which states the firm can close a franchisee right there and then if he has violated any provision, particularly in the area of cleanliness.

"And they have been known to terminate contracts right there and then," he adds.

That is why, he says, the owner spends half of his time going to McDonald's stores in the country and has been known to order the immediate termination of contracts of franchisees.

When not to franchise

"When your food preparation is so complicated that it will take a person with built-in discipline and interest and love of complicated things to be able to do it well, then you should not go into franchising," Faustino says.

A restaurant like Le Souffle cannot go into franchising, according to the AIM guru. Cabalen, the chain of restaurants serving *Kapampangan* food can go into franchising provided it had a commissary.

"Ideally speaking, the main product must come from you," he says.

Choosing a franchisee

GETTING a franchisee is like getting into a marriage, says AIM professor Jose M. Faustino.

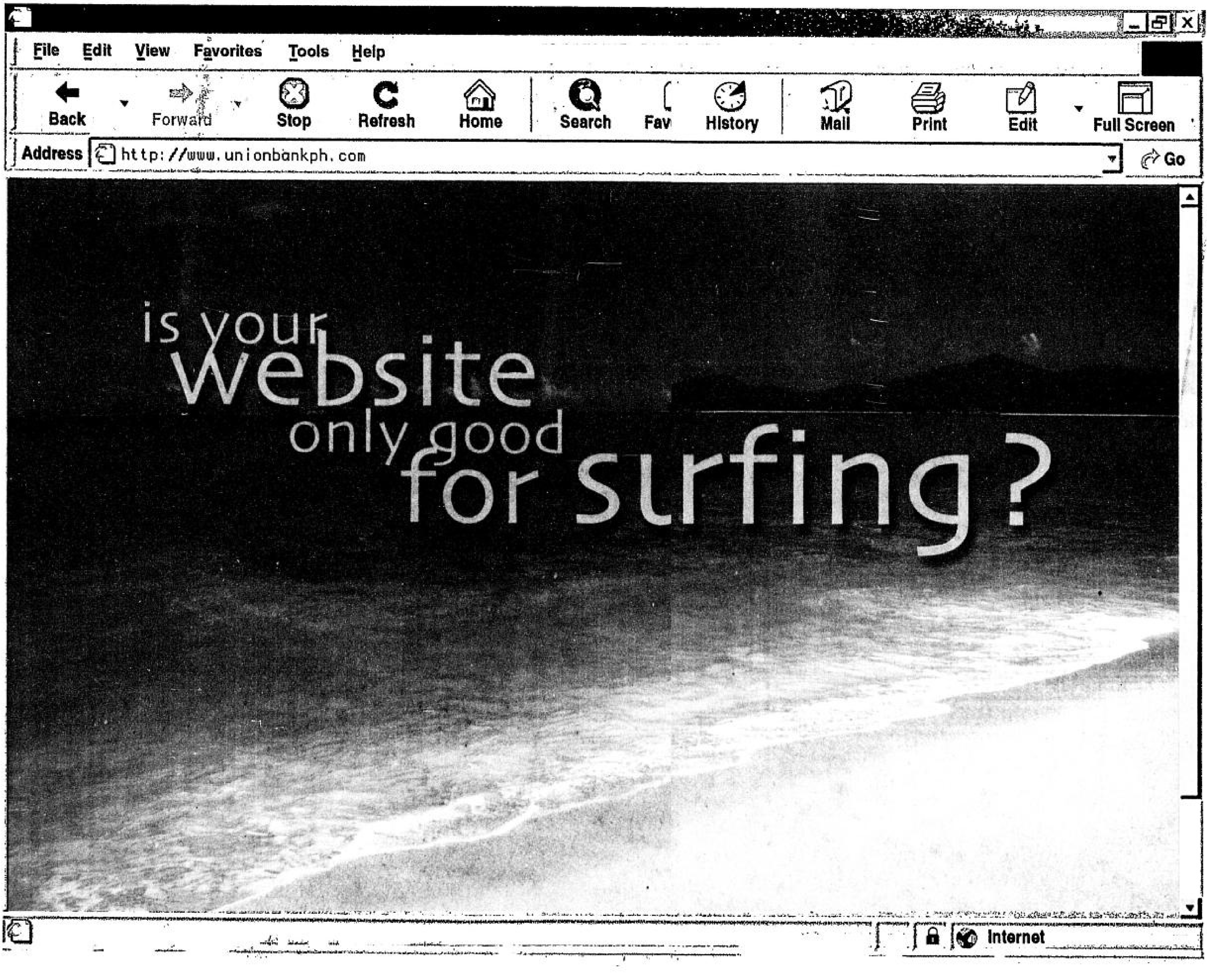
Therefore it is important that the franchisor and franchisee have the same set of values.

"The franchisee should protect the brand as if it were their own," says Faustino.

The franchisee must have the financial capability to get a franchise.

Faustino points out that many franchisors grant a franchise, not just on the basis of financial capability but based on the dedication the franchisee can give to the business.

He cites George Yang who was given the McDonald's franchise even if many big companies wanted it, because he was deemed as dedicated. The US company subsequently bought back Yang's holdings because it could not stand the fact that the Philippines is the only country in the world where McDonald's is not the No. 1 hamburger chain.



SILAYAN JOHNNY VILLENA

Computer school aims to give not just tools but skills as well

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NIIT (National Institute for Information Technology) is not the typical computer school Filipinos have been used to for years. NIIT aims to give its students the basic tools one will need in the IT world and also to make sure that the student becomes deft enough to use these.

Bartolome "Jay" Silayan, the managing director of NIIT Philippine licensee Mind Stream Inc., says NIIT has become the world's most prolific training ground for IT professionals and one of the world's leading provider of eBusiness solutions by capitalizing on the synergy between IT education and software development. Mind Stream is composed of ePLDT, venture capital firm Project Quest, Silayan and investment banker Benedict Perez.

Silayan likens NIIT's training strategy to a medical school where would-be doctors get hands-on training in hospitals to apply what they learn from the lecture halls and laboratories.

"Our students get the edge by letting them master only the tools that they will need to become software engineers. We also give them a unique perspective of the real world by tackling actual problems encountered in a software development firm. By the end of their course, all our students are ready to take on any software jobs anywhere in the world," Silayan says.

"This is why all our graduates are ensured of getting an IT job after getting their diploma."

Silayan says NIIT has torn down the wall between the academe and industry by continuously updating its curriculum every six months to key in the new trends in eBusiness. "We make sure that all our subjects are practical and relevant and that our students would always absorb any new technology or system down the road," Silayan says.

NIIT has training alliances with Microsoft (which considers NIIT its best training partner in Asia), Oracle, and Computer Associates.

Based on NIIT's eTechnologies curriculum, Silayan says students would initially be trained to get international certification for Sun Microsystems and Microsoft for Java programming, information management and graphic design.

Next, NIIT students go through best practices from the industry such as project standards, quality assurance standards, documentation standards, and performance standards.

Students then go through real-life tasks and problem-based learning guided by acknowledged experts in the business. NIIT students

COMPUTER/ C4

Updated rules on sale of principal residence

By Joy Maria Socorro B. Pamintua
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

FOR THOSE (citizens or resident alien individual) planning to sell their principal residence in order to acquire or construct a new one, here are some additional reminders.

First, you must be aware that such sale is generally subject to capital gains tax (CGT). Capital gains are presumed to have been realized from the sale, exchange or other disposition by an individual, including estates and trusts, of real property located in the Philippines and classified as a capital asset. Under Section 24(D)(1) of the Tax Code, CGT is pegged at 6 percent of either the gross selling price or fair market value, whichever is higher.

Secondly, it is possible to be exempt from CGT if the proceeds of the sale is used in acquiring or constructing a new principal residence within 18 calendar months from the date of the sale or disposition.

Before anything else, therefore, you must determine if the property you intend to sell is legally classified as a principal residence; otherwise, the exemption will not apply. Unfortunately, the Tax Code has no definition of principal residence. Fortunately, Revenue Regulations No. 13-99, dated July 26, 1999, has plugged this hole in the law by defining principal residence as "the dwelling house, including the land on which it is situated, where the husband and wife or an unmarried individual, whether or not qualified as head of family, and members of his family reside.

"Actual occupancy of such principal residence will not be considered interrupted or abandoned by reason of the individual's temporary absence therefrom due to travel or studies or work abroad or such other similar circumstances. Such principal residence must be characterized by permanency in that it must be the dwelling house to which, whenever absent, the said individual intends to return."

Revenue Regulations No. 14-2000, which was issued just last Nov. 20, 2000, further expanded this definition by making a distinction in cases where there is a divergence in the ownership of the house and of the land on which it stands, and in cases where the house and lot are owned by several co-owners.

In the first case, as when the land is merely being leased by the owner of the house, only the house will be treated as principal residence, even when the land and house are sold jointly by their owners. If they happen to reside in the same house, as in the case of parents who may own the land and their children who may own the house, or vice-versa, then both house and lot will be deemed as their principal residence, the sale of which may be exempt from CGT.

In the second scenario, if the land and the house are co-owned, say, by two or more heirs through hereditary succession, said properties will be treated as principal residence of the co-owner/s, including the members of his/their families, actually occupying and using the same as his/their permanent residence. The exemption will apply to the co-owner/s using and occupying the property as his/their permanent residence but only to the extent of his/their proportionate share in the value of the property.

The distinction seeks to address situations where the privilege of exemption may be the subject of abuse by simply claiming that the house and lot to be sold is a principal residence although the real owner(s) are already residing in another part of the country or abroad.

An interesting amendment to these conditions was introduced in the latest regulations. This pertains to the execution of an escrow agreement between the revenue district officer, the seller/transferor, and the authorized agent bank (AAB). The 6-percent CGT otherwise due on the presumed capital gains shall be deposited in cash or manager's check in an interest-bearing account with the AAB with the understanding that said amount, including its interest yield, shall only be released to the seller/transferor upon certification by the revenue district officer that the said proceeds have, in fact, been used to purchase or construct the seller/transferor's new principal residence within 18 months from the date of the initial sale or disposition, i.e., the date of notarization of the transfer document. Apparently, the execution of the escrow agreement as a new requirement is patterned after the US tax regulations to ensure compliance with the primordial condition for exemption from CGT, i.e., that the proceeds of the sale will be used to purchase or construct a new principal residence.

Requirements for exemption

Section 3 of RR No. 13-99 requires the submission of the following documents to support the application for exemption from CGT or income tax in case the principal residence is intended to be sold:

(1) Sworn declaration requirement.—He shall submit a sworn declaration of his intent to avail of the tax exemption herein provided which shall be filed with the aforementioned revenue district office having jurisdiction over the location of the principal residence within 30 days from the date of its sale, exchange or disposition, inclusive of the following:

(a) Duly accomplished capital gains tax return (BIR Form No. 1706);

(b) Proof of payment of documentary stamp tax on conveyance of real property;

(c) A sworn statement from the barangay chairman or building administrator in the case of condominium unit, that his principal residence is located within the jurisdiction of that barangay and has been his residence as of the date of sale, exchange or disposition thereof;

(d) A duplicate original copy of the deed of conveyance of his principal residence;

(e) Photocopy of the transfer certificate of title (TCT) or condominium certificate of title (CCT), in case of a condominium unit (covering the principal residence sold, exchanged or disposed); and

(f) Latest tax declaration of the said principal residence (land and improvement).

(2) Post reporting requirement.

(a) A sworn statement that the total proceeds from the sale of his old principal residence has been actually utilized in the acquisition or construction of his new principal residence or, if the construction of his new principal residence is still in progress, a sworn statement that such amount shall be fully utilized to procure the necessary materials and pay for the cost of labor and other expenses for the construction thereof;

(b) A certified statement from his architect or engineer, or both, showing the cost of materials and labor for the construction of his new principal residence;

(c) A certified copy of the building permit issued by the Office of the Building Official of the city or municipality where his new principal residence shall be constructed, as well as photocopies of documents (e.g. building specification plan, construction plans, construction cost estimates) submitted with his application for said permit;

(d) In case his new principal residence is acquired by purchase, a duplicate original copy of the Deed of Absolute Sale covering the purchase of his new principal residence.

The tax exemption granted may be availed of only once every 10 years. The historical cost or adjusted basis of his old principal residence sold, exchanged or disposed shall be carried over to the cost basis of his new principal residence. The historical cost or adjusted cost basis of the real property sold or disposed shall be carried over to the new principal residence built or acquired, and if there is no utilization of the proceeds of the sale or disposition, in full or in part within the 18-month reglementary period, the portion of the gain presumed to have been realized from the sale or disposition shall be subject to the CGT. In case of proceeds not utilized in full, only a fractional part (which the utilized amount bears to the gross selling price) of the historical cost of the old principal residence sold shall be carried over to the cost basis of the new principal residence.

In computing the capital gains tax due on the sale of the principal residence, we follow the following steps:

(1) Determine the percentage of non-utilization applying the formula:

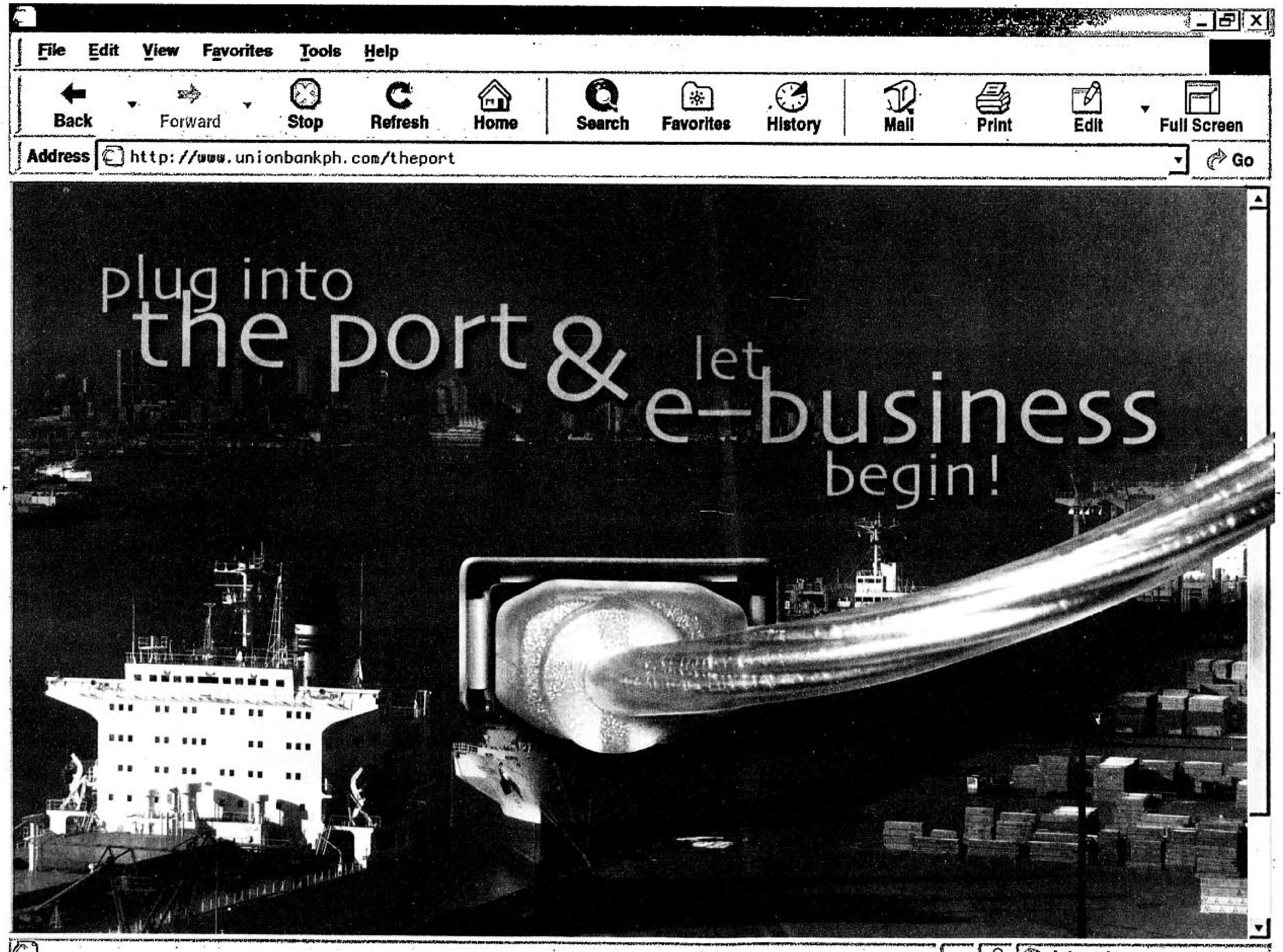
$$\frac{\text{Unutilized Portion of Gross Selling Price (GSP)}}{\text{GSP}} = \text{Percentage (\%) of Non-Utilization}$$

(2) Multiply the percentage of non-utilization by the GSP or FMV, whichever is higher.

(3) Multiply the product in item (2) above by the rate of 6 percent.

The tax due thereon shall immediately become due and demandable

UPDATED/ C3



Updated rules on sale of principal residence

(From page C2)

on the 31st day after the date of the sale, exchange or disposition of principal residence. As such, he shall file his capital gains tax return covering the sale, exchange or disposition of his principal residence and pay the deficiency capital gains tax inclusive of the 25-percent surcharge for late payment of the tax plus 20-percent delinquency interest per annum incident to such late payment computed on the basis of the basic tax assessed. The interest shall be imposed from the 31st day after the date of the sale of principal residence until the date of payment, provided, that the date of sale shall mean the date of notarization of the document of sale, exchange, or disposition of principal residence.

Dot-com garb doesn't fly in downturn

NEW YORK—In the business world, the suit and tie is back after the dot-com burnout.

Retailers are beginning to see a trend toward the more traditional business suit as corporate casual wear, made popular by dot-com workers, no longer is considered "dressing for success." A slowing economy and the disappearance of many Internet-based companies have prompted many workers to reassess their wardrobe, opting for a more "professional" look.

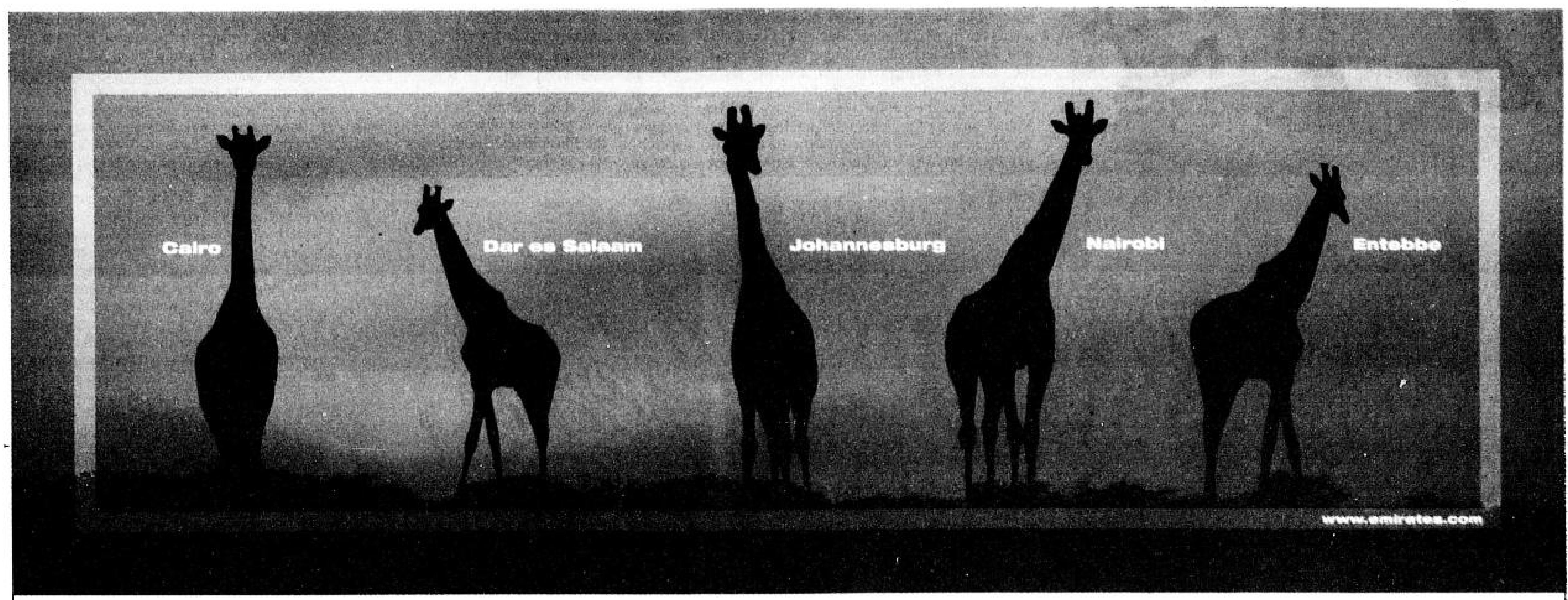
"The mystique of looking like you're a dot-com maverick now really doesn't make you look like you're dressed for success or power," said David Wolfe, creative director at Doneger Group, a New York-based style consultancy and retail analyst company representing more than 1,000 retailers worldwide. "Dressing down became the new power dressing and now some of these guys are losing their power."

It was subtle yet symbolic when Yahoo! Inc.'s boss Tim Koogle showed up on CNBC in a business suit instead of his trademark black turtleneck three weeks ago to discuss his resignation as chief executive. Koogle remains chairman.

The casual dress trend started in Silicon Valley, driven by a large pool of entrepreneurial graduate students who never bought into the formal structures of a suit and tie.

"It began to be a symbol of the new economy," said Mark Nevins, managing director for Korn/Ferry International, the world's leading recruitment company. "It was the idea of 'I'm 25, you're going to pay me $1 million and I'm going to bring my parrot to work.'"

Nevins said not wearing a suit and tie became "a symbol of freedom and opportunity and doing things differently," a trend that stirred alarm among Korn/Ferry's clients who feared they would lose their best employees to dot-com start-ups. *Reuters*



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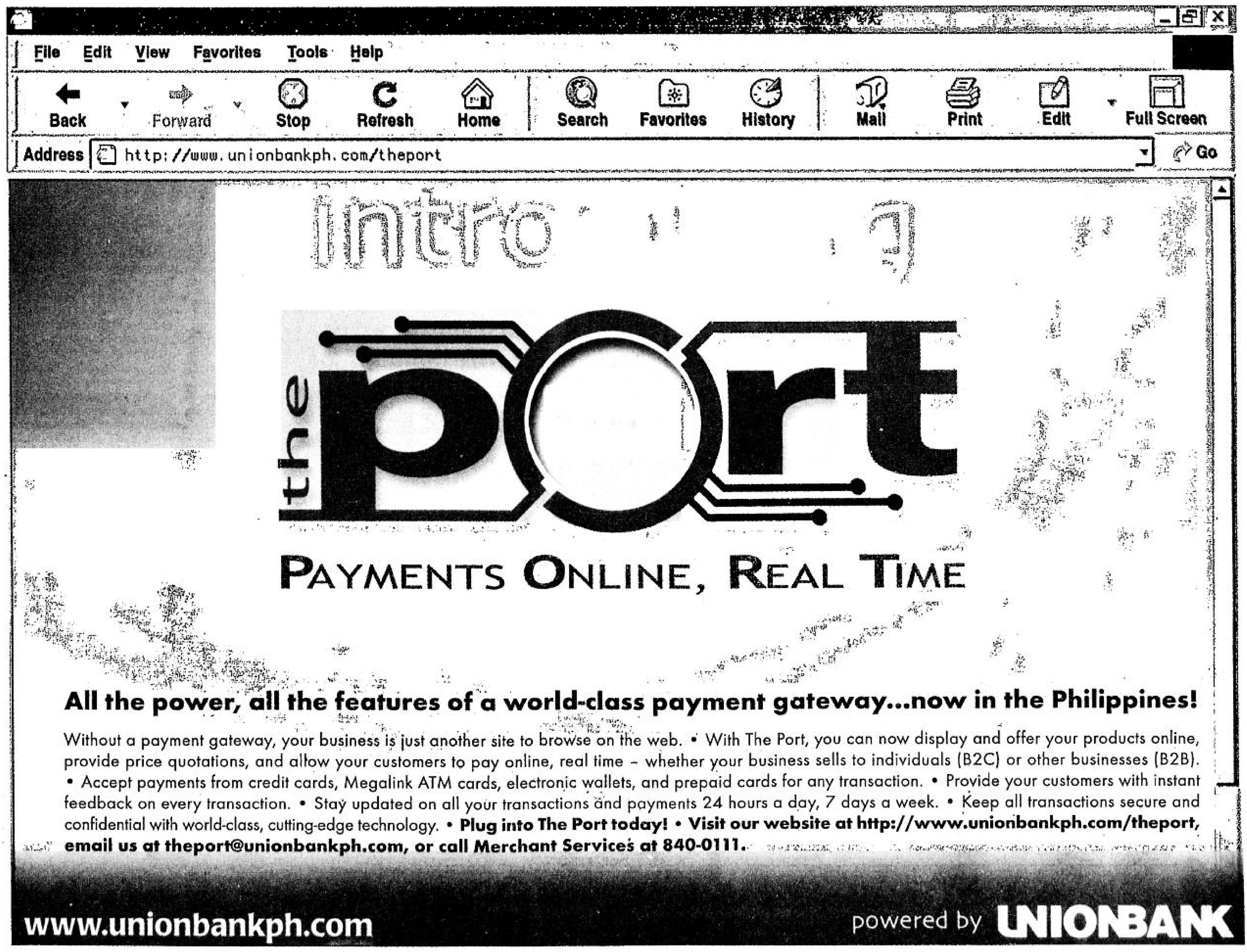

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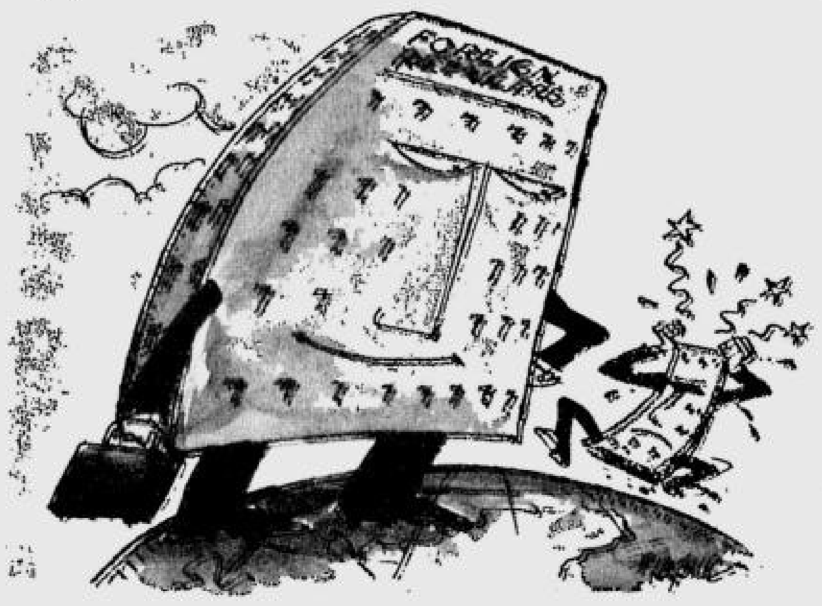

Be afraid of competition and leverage your brands

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SINGAPORE—Internet commerce may not have taken Asia by storm as many people have predicted but there is a bigger competitive challenge posed on retailers that is hitting closer to home—the entry of the big retail and specialty shops from the United States and Europe.

This was the prediction made by Dr. Ira Kalish, director for global retail intelligence system of consulting firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers, in a press briefing here during the Retail Industry Trade Event 2001 exhibition.

Kalish says big foreign retailers such as Wal-Mart in the US and Tesco of the UK are spreading their wings to cover Asia to keep their costs down and improve efficiencies.

By maintaining global and focused operations, these large corporations achieve economies of scale.

Kalish says this threatens the existence of smaller retail companies, including the big local players in the Philippines, because the global companies will be able to sell the same products at lower cost.

He explains that cross-border ownership of retail networks has accelerated over the past years due to the global excess capacity of retail shops, thus, retailers have to look at other markets to maintain their operations.

"There is excessive retailing because people now shop less frequently than they used to as more women get into the marketplace. Instead of shopping everyday, they shop every week or every two weeks so there is no need for too many stores. The Internet has also changed consumer behavior,'' Kalish says.

With consumer having a bigger array of choices than they used to, retailers have no choice but to get a share of the dwindling resources left for shopping. This means pressure to keep prices low, maintain quality standards and be more responsive to fickle consumers.

Kalish says retail shops, thus, have to find ways to differentiate themselves from the other local and global players in their markets to keep customers coming to their stores. Unique can either be in price, merchandise, customer service and in branding.

Retailers of tomorrow, he says, should leverage on their brands. Clothes shop Gap of the US, for instance, has built up its brand to connote quality clothes at affordable prices.

Victoria's Secret has also built up its brand through multi-channel distribution. It has retail shops, catalogs and a website to reach out to consumers.

Kalish also emphasizes the need to minimize costs. This is more of a challenge for local retailers who do not have the benefit of global purchasing like foreign companies that have expressed interest in going to the Philippines.

"Retailers will also have to innovate, execute, adapt and be paranoid to competition from overseas so that they can institute changes to keep up with the changing consumers and entry of global players," he says.

Kalish predicts that retailing in the future will be global, consolidated, efficient and focused with global players selling off non-core assets to concentrate on their niche markets.

Consumers, on the other hand, are expected to be more sophisticated, price conscious and demanding.

Kalish emphasizes that e-retailing may not yet be too much of a factor in retailing in Asia but it will in the next five years as more people in Asia get connected to the Internet.

"The Internet is one of the transforming phenomena that will change the retailing landscape in the future because it is another factor that will enhance competition in the sector," he says.

Kalish encourages existing players to go into e-commerce to provide another channel for distribution. He says it is existing brick and mortar companies that will benefit most from the changes through the Internet compared to pure Internet retail companies who have to build their business from scratch.

Computer . . .

(From page C2)

learn from the experience gained by the institution while working on software projects.

Silayan says students learn by analyzing case studies drawn from industry settings which familiarizes the student with typical organizational functions by serving as a backdrop for problem discussions. "NIIT does IT consulting work for many Fortune 500 companies. All this learning from the real world is brought back to the classroom environment. This sets us apart from other IT schools; our training methodology is based on a software factory model."

Silayan says that this method allows the student to get technical knowledge in the context of its application; solves problems of similar or greater complexity; improve skill retention; and develops ability to explore and assimilate new knowledge. "The student develops independent problem solving capability which is essential for success in an industry," Silayan said.

NIIT is planning to serve not only high school graduates or college students seeking careers in computers but also IT professionals who need more advanced training; business managers who want to gain a competitive edge over rivals; and housewives who want to be computer literate.

Silayan says a course takes up three 2-hour sessions a week. He said students get a diploma in eTechnology recognized all over the world after two years. NIIT is opening five branches in the country this year—Makati, Manila, Quezon City, Ortigas and Alabang. College students or office employees can take NIIT while earning a college degree or working.

NIIT has three programs geared specifically for the needs of the student or professionals. Futurz is a two-year course for new high school graduates or college students who want to earn a diploma and work as a software engineer for e-Technology. Eligible students can even notch a bachelor's degree from international or local schools affiliated with NIIT. It has a curriculum for Advanced Studies which are meant for IT professionals to help them upgrade their knowledge and skills in order to keep progressing in the ever-changing IT field. NIIT also has end-user courses dubbed Swift or Short Work Programs in Information Technology meant for those who would like to become more aware of computers. This would include a number of literacy programs meant for working professionals whether accountants, doctors, lawyers or engineers.

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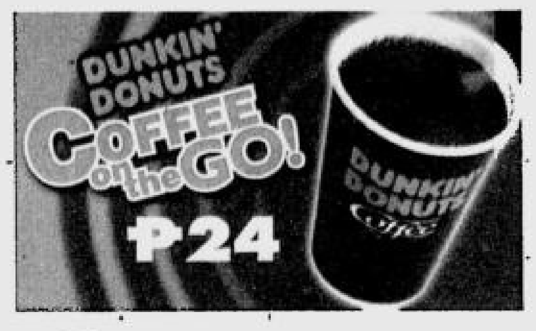
LIFESTYLE

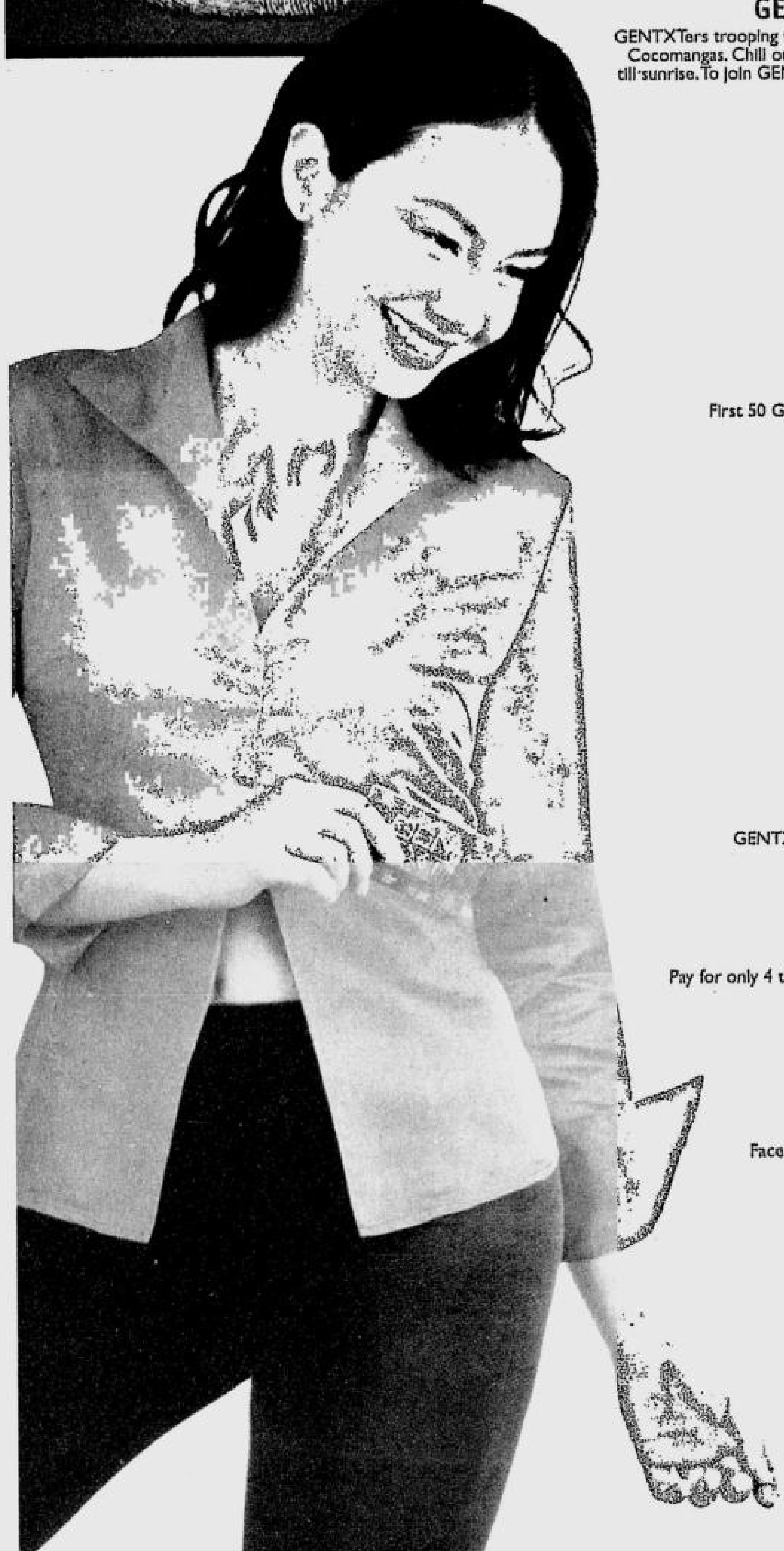
Trend Spotting

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

DUNKIN' DONUTS
COFFEE on the GO!
₱24



What's this summer?



April Gig Guide

GENTXT and SIEMENS present ManoMission 2001, Boracay Island

12&14

GENTXTers trooping to the pearly white beaches of Boracay will welcome summer with fun & games, dance parties & music gigs at Cocomangas. Chill out with two Sunset Sessions from 4-7 PM and enjoy a free Blue Ice Beer during two Dance Parties from 9 PM till sunrise. To join GENTXT-exclusive island activities, register at the GENTXT booth at Cocomangas on April 11, 2 PM onwards.**

>> Cocomangas, Boracay

"The Mexican", Advanced Screening

19

(In cooperation with Magic 89.9 DWTM)

Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt star together for the first time in this romantic action-comedy flick. First 50 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting April 18 will get free tickets.

>> SM Megamall Cinema 1 - 7:30 PM

Crossover Live

21

First 20 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting April 20 will get free tickets for a night of music with Silk and Time and a Half.

>> Boardwalk, Subic - 8:00 PM

"Someone Like You", Advanced Screening

30

(In cooperation with Magic 89.9 DWTM)

First 50 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting April 29 will get free tickets to this romantic-comedy movie based on a novel about a young woman who dissects the conditions of her single status. Starring Ashley Judd, Greg Kinnear, and Marissa Tomei.

>> SM Megamall Cinema 11 - 7:30 PM

Special Summer Offers

Pink Patio, Boracay WHOLE MONTH

GENTXTers get 50% off on wall-climbing.

Scubaworld, Cebu WHOLE MONTH

Dive into the heat of summer with 50% off on diving lessons for every group of 5 GENTXTers and ₱50 off per hour on kayak rental (₱150).

Pearl Farm, Davao WHOLE MONTH

An ultimate summer getaway awaits GENTXTers at Pearl Farm, Davao with 50% off on published room rates and 15% off on food and drinks.

New Offers

Tequila Joe's

GENTXTers cool off with a choice of free iced tea with any food purchase or free Tower of Power for a minimum ₱500 food and drink purchase.

Gotham, Malate

GENTXTers get a load of 15% off on food and drinks.

CD Warehouse

GENTXTers hum to the tune of hot music with 10% off on cash and 5% off on credit purchases.

Ayala Theaters

Pay for only 4 tickets (except on guaranteed seats) for every group of 5 GENTXTers who want to enjoy a movie at Glorietta 1, 4 and Greenbelt Theaters.

New Partners

Toby's Sports Arena

GENTXTers go athletic with 10% off on all items at Toby's Sports Arena outlet in Glorietta 2, plus one free round at the basketball shootout area.

Executive Optical

Face the glare of the summer sun with 20%-35% off on signature frames and sunglasses (except Oakley & Rayban), 20% off on selected cosmetic colored contact lenses (Radiance & Optical Illusions from UK), 10% off on selected regular contact lenses (Dimensions & Synergy disposable contact lenses).

Nike Stadium

Enjoy 10% off on all cash and credit purchases.

Planet Sports

Get 10% off on all cash and credit purchases.

Club Fuel, Cebu

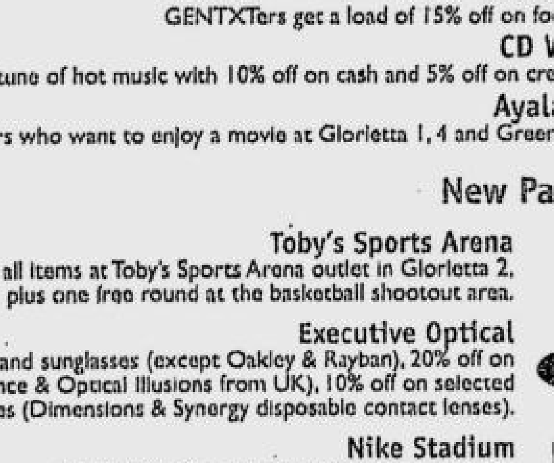
GENTXTers rev up to party music with free entrance (except on special events), plus 10% off on food and drinks.

BTB, Cebu

GENTXTers enjoy 15% off on food and beverages with minimum order worth ₱500 and free iced tea for a minimum of 1-hour billiard playing time.

*HARRISON COMMUNICATIONS is at the 4/F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for GENTXTer Cecille, flash your GENTXT card, and get your free tickets.

**Applications accepted, bring requirements.



Your GENTXT card is your passport to free invites, exclusive events and privileges and major discounts.

It's so easy to get a GENTXT card. All active Globe Handyphone Plan and Prepaid Plus subscribers between 18 and 29 years old are eligible to get the card. Simply bring along the following:

- Valid ID with photo, signature and indication of birthday like a driver's license and SSS ID.
- If ID has no indication of birthday, please bring an ID with your picture and the document bearing your birthdate (e.g. community tax certificate, SSS Card, birth, marriage or baptismal certificate).
- Membership fee of P200 to be paid upon approval of application.

For Plan Subscribers:
One of the last two months paid/settled Globe Handyphone bill.
For Prepaid Plus Subscribers:
P1,500 worth of used Globe Handyphone Prépaid Plus call cards.

You can get and submit your application forms at all Globe Telecom Business Centers and selected GENTXT events. Also check out GENTXT special promos and discounts through GlobeXplore and InfoText. Via GlobeXplore: click on "info", then select "Globe Info", then select "GENTXT". Through InfoText: key in GENTXT, to know about the latest events for the month or GENTXT ESTABS <establishment groups> (establishment groups are: A-E, F-J, K-O, P-T and U-Z, then send to 2333.)

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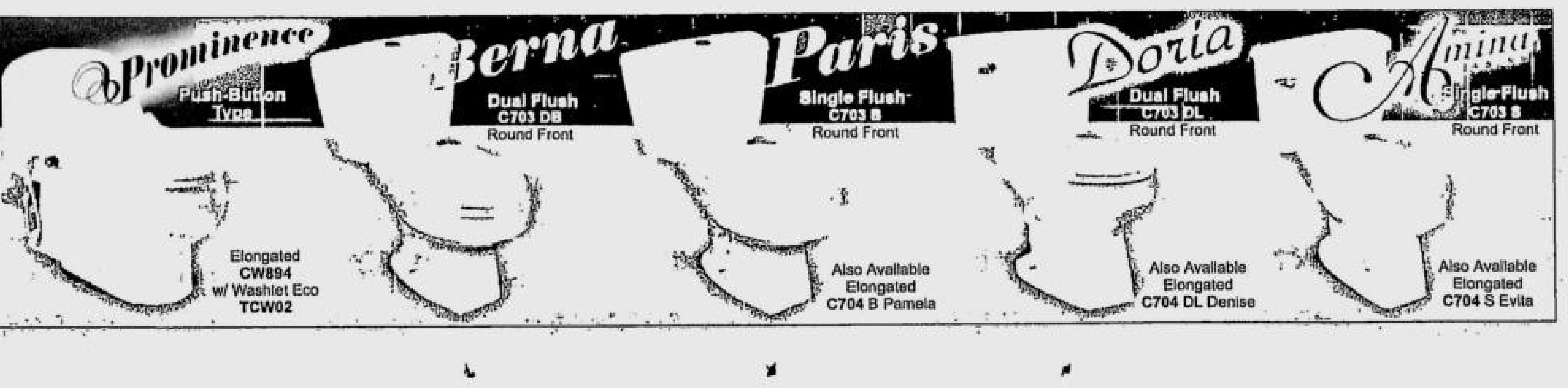


BLUE and pink tank tops, P349.75 each

Tank it to the limit

By Camille T. Cruz
Photos by Betoy Johnson

IT was prom season. Instead of the usual comfortably lit entrance of the restaurant-turned-bar at night, the doors opened to a nearly pitch-black room with heavily pumped-up music and the long dresses of the young girls that swept playfully as they vanished into the light.

My group and I chose the least visible corner away from the scene just because for once, that night, we were not among the young anymore.

Long A-line cuts and biased dresses were a popular choice among the girls. The colors were hot pink, red and other bright shades that bared mostly the flesh of the back.

I can't remember seeing so much skin in formal attire when I was their age.

There is now a new kind of confidence that has caught up with the age of innocence. Now, young people are independent, aggressive and into baring a little more soul.

If you notice, almost anybody has possession of a tank top or better yet, a spaghetti-strapped top, fitted to show the curves of one's body. It is almost every retail shop's most popular piece. It comes in basic colors, different fabrics, radical style and prints, with minimal or maximum detailing and more.

These tops are usually seen with a nice pair of jeans or a knee-length skirt or even slacks. They have become any teenagers favorite items.

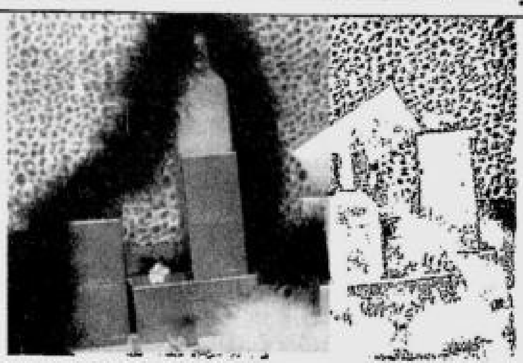
Where do you find them? In stores everywhere.

The XY shop carries a variety of them. Although there is more to these little tops, I guess it's getting hotter by the day. The sun will come out again tomorrow, and even if night falls, these pieces will expose some skin.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

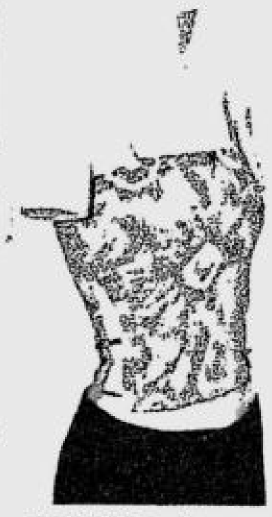
Summer's here! Attack it with a tank!

TANK top with red, orange yellow sequins, P899.75



TOILETRIES to keep you fresh

GREEN and blue floral bikini top with matching shorts



PRINTED tank top with interesting side detail

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& Best Credit Record
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- Best Credit Record - January 2001
- Best Credit Record of the Year 2000

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  - January 2001
- 5th Top Group Seller
  - December 2000

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Xenical is effective in reducing weight over a 12-week period among obese Filipinos

OBESITY – one of the biggest malaise around the world – has not spared the Philippines. While the overweight prevalence in many countries varies from 16 to 50 percent, the obesity prevalence in a selected population in the Philippines has already hit 21 percent.

Following these findings, a group of internists sought to evaluate if obese patients will lose more weight if they take the anti-obesity drug Xenical using its own required dosage. This was 120 mg 3 times a day after meals (tid ds), with a hypocaloric diet rather than with placebo in conjunction with the same caloric diet, and to evaluate the tolerability of Xenical administered orally for 12 weeks.

The doctors led by Augusto Litonjua, M.D., FPCP, from Makati Medical Center, used a double-blind placebo controlled, randomized parallel study design, involving 120 patients, in 3 centers with 3 subcenters.

The selection criteria included obese males and females between 18 and 65 years old with a Body Mass Index (BMI) equal to or higher than 30. The test medication was Xenical 120 mg taken during meals. The main parameter of efficacy was body weight, for safety, there were vital signs, adverse events, routine laboratory tests and serious adverse events.

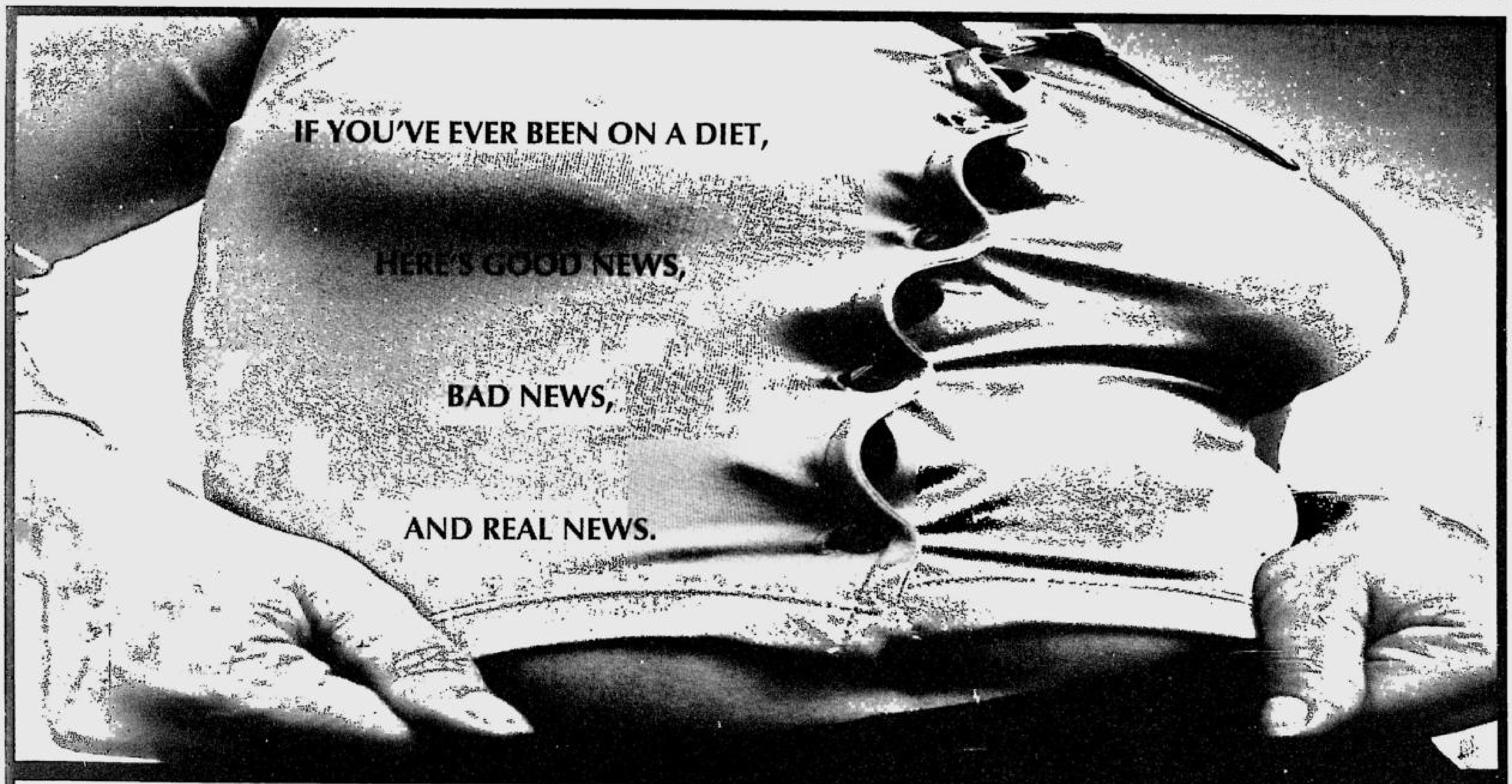
Patients, meeting the inclusion criteria, entered a 2-week placebo lead-in period and were placed on a hypocaloric diet for the entire study.

Following the 2-week placebo period, the patients were randomized to receive either Xenical or placebo for 12 weeks. Throughout the study, patients received dietary counseling The patients visited the clinic every four weeks for assessment of tolerability, efficacy and dietary monitoring.

The study, published in the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine, was performed on 142 patients. Continuous variables such as age, blood pressure, heart rate, waist and hip circumference, and body mass index in both groups were calculated by descriptive statistics.

Over a period of 12 weeks, there were a significant body mass index reduction and weight loss, particularly seen objectively and subjectively in waist and hip circumference reduction.

The study proves that Xenical is indeed effective in reducing weight, hip and waist circumference and body mass index over a 12-weel period of treatment, with tolerable safety profile, among obese Filipino subjects.



If you're on a diet, thinking of starting on one, or already have lost weight due to one, here's some **sobering news.** According to one recent survey, 75% of all dieters gain back most of the weight they lost within one year.

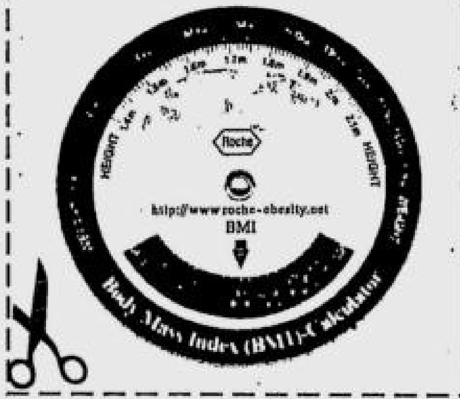
The **good news** for people going on a diet is that you will certainly lose weight in the short-term. But the **bad news** is that there's a better chance they will gain all that weight back.

The **real news:** there is no such thing as a short-term weight loss program. Losing weight requires a sustainable determination on your part, to watch the foods you eat, and to start on an exercise program. Which simply means that the earlier you stop making excuses, and start committing yourself to losing weight, the earlier you can enjoy the benefits of being fit. However, weight management should be closely monitored by a doctor. Also, you are advised not to resort to purchasing over-the-counter drugs.

Your doctor can also tell you about a proven treatment for obesity that has benefited more than 8.5 million individuals around the world. This drug has been well-researched by a reputable pharmaceutical company and is backed by clinical studies with proven efficacy and safety for 30 years before it was marketed. This new treatment, which is a lipase inhibitor, cuts down the absorption of dietary fat in the body by up to 30%, allowing for radical improvements in weight loss and weight management programs. And unlike food supplements that claim to work but have no scientific basis, this drug was approved by the FDA in the US as well as the European Union, and our local BFAD (Bureau of Food and Drugs).

Weight management counsellors are also available by phone, from 9 am - 6 pm, Monday to Friday, to help you compute your BMI, and to give advice on how you can avail of a long-term weight management program. If you're in Metro Manila, call **899-5955** and a counsellor will be on hand to answer your questions. (Outside Metro Manila, please dial **1-800-1-888-5955**).

FREE BMI CALCULATOR. If you would like to check your own Body Mass Index (BMI) fill out this coupon and send it by fax at **890-5012** or mail to Xenical Counselling Center, PO Box 3994, Makati Central Post Office. You can also send an e-mail containing all the information below, and send it to xenical@bcdpinpoint.com . We will send you your own BMI calculator, along with instructions on its use.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BMI
Body Mass Index (BMI) Calculator

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Height Weight

PDI-03-30-2001

Treats for shoppers

CLAIBORNE Men is celebrating three good years at the Glorietta 4 with three treats for all their patrons. Until March 31, enjoy light refreshments from 3 p.m. onward, a 10-percent savings on the latest arrivals and a further 20 percent off on your third dress shirt as Claiborne says thank you and looks forward to even better years.

GOINGS-ON

LAUNCHING. CATS Motors Inc., with Daimler Chrysler and Commercial Motors Corp., will launch the C-class Sports Coupe coinciding with the inauguration of CATS Motors showroom at 6 tonight at CATS Greenhills, San Juan.

FASHION SHOW. Runaway Productions, CalCarrie's International Models Philippines, Es-Ac Sydney-Manila, New Avon Color will present "Fashion Week Summer 2001" today, at the Glorietta Activity Area and at the Glorietta 4 Park in Makati. It is conceptualized and directed by Joey A. Espino Jr. and produced by Audie Espino. The show will run until April 8.

ANNOUNCEMENT. The Association of Photo Studios of the Philippines (Apsop) will launch a wedding shoot and photo contest tomorrow until April 1, at the Verde Island Resort in Batangas. Participants who are Apsop members will get a free stay at the resort while non-members will enjoy a 50-percent discount on accommodations. Call 912-0873.

SALE. Mayfair Center at the Magallanes Commercial Center in Makati offers "Great Noritake Summer Sale." On sale are Noritake dinner ware and ceramic products. Ongoing until tomorrow.

SEMINAR. Inner Mind Development Institute will conduct a seminar on "Soul Mates, Karma and Reincarnation" tomorrow, 1-7 p.m. Call 892-6806 or 810-7245.

SALE. Customers and shoppers of the Robinsons' "Mallwide Midnight Sale" today will have a chance to win a brand-new, Sony VHS player and tapes. It's big-time shopping with discounts of up to 50 percent from 10 a.m.-12 mn today in all Robinsons Mall branches. Call 633-7641 to -90 local 175/176.

MEDITATION. Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center offers Raja Yoga meditation on April 7, 4-6 p.m. Call 922-9231 or 414-9421.

RETREAT. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish will hold its 20th Annual Lenten Retreat at the Araneta Coliseum on April 12, 13 and 14, 6 a.m.-2 p.m.

WORKSHOP. ProActive Center for training will hold a workshop on fruit and vegetable carving on April 17, 1-5 p.m., at Triple V Express, 2/L Bridgeway SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 823-4947.

BAZAAR. "Summer Weekend Bazaar" is set on April 6, 7 and 8, at the Telecom Lane, 3/F Glorietta 2, Makati. Quality local products and select imported items are available for bargain hunters. Also on exhibit: summer wear, telecommunications and exotic Philippine regional crafts and home accessories. Call 820-7879/1570.

Durable and sweat-proof jeans

LEVI'S recently struck an agreement with DuPont to revolutionize jeans fabric by incorporating the D3 Technology of DuPont CoolMax in its 501 jeans line. Tough and durable, it is now also breathable, easier to care for and sweat-proof.

The 501 fabric has always been produced at Cone Mills in San Francisco because it has been a tried-and-tested source of excellent jeans material. CoolMax is an original innovation of Levi's and integrated into the original jeans, Levi's 501.

DuPont Coolmax is a high-performance fabric. Using DuPont's proprietary Dacron fibers, CoolMax fabrics transport perspiration away from the body to the surface of the garment, where it can evaporate quickly. This means your body produces just the right amount of sweat only when it's actually really needed. The fibers also provide great breathability (or air permeability) even when wet, so it's comfortable to wear. No more of that annoying clammy feeling when your clothes stick to your body, plus you have more endurance because the body conserves more energy the less you sweat.

Available in selected Original Levi's Stores nationwide and initially for men only.

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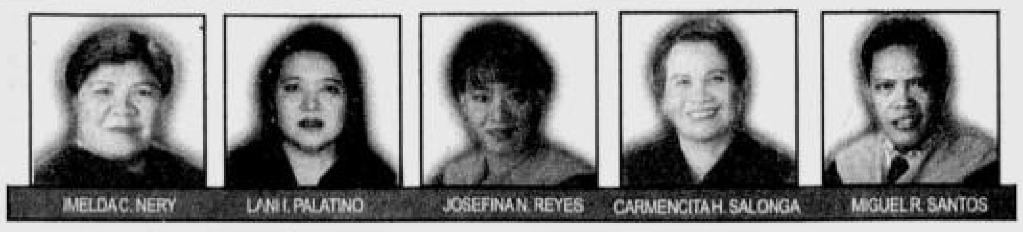

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n of CEU's 91st Commencement oudly present another batch of young no are imbued with desirable values contribute to their chosen careers.

to all the graduates!

T. Echauz

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GOOD NEWS!

CEU Malolos will begin to offer the courses BS Pharmacy and Doctor of Dental Medicine in JUNE 2001

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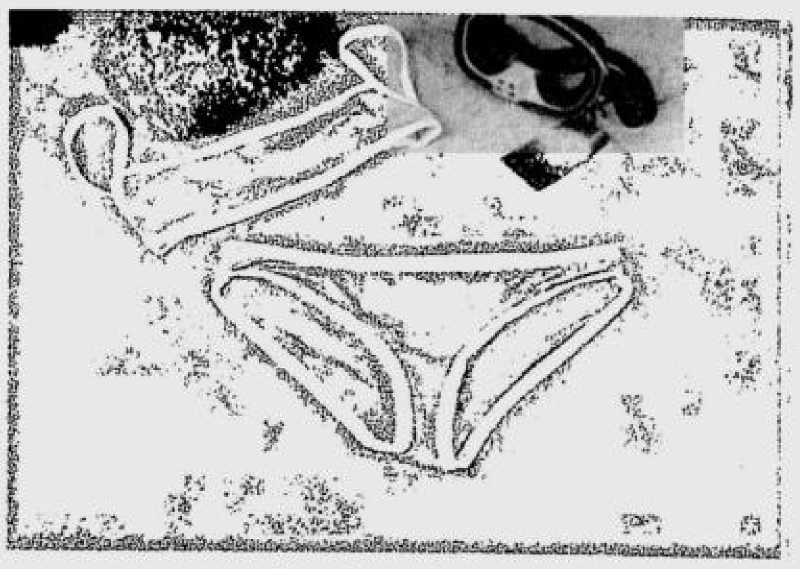
THE BATH and beauty line from New York beauty's "it" girl Marcia Kilgore called Bliss Labs



IF you've got the bod, flaunt it in this kiwi-green bikini with white piping by Zimmermann.

Fashion on a Wish

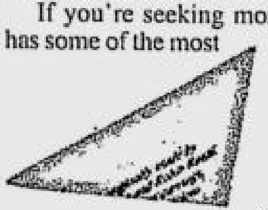
> Don't we all desire for a great body and budget?

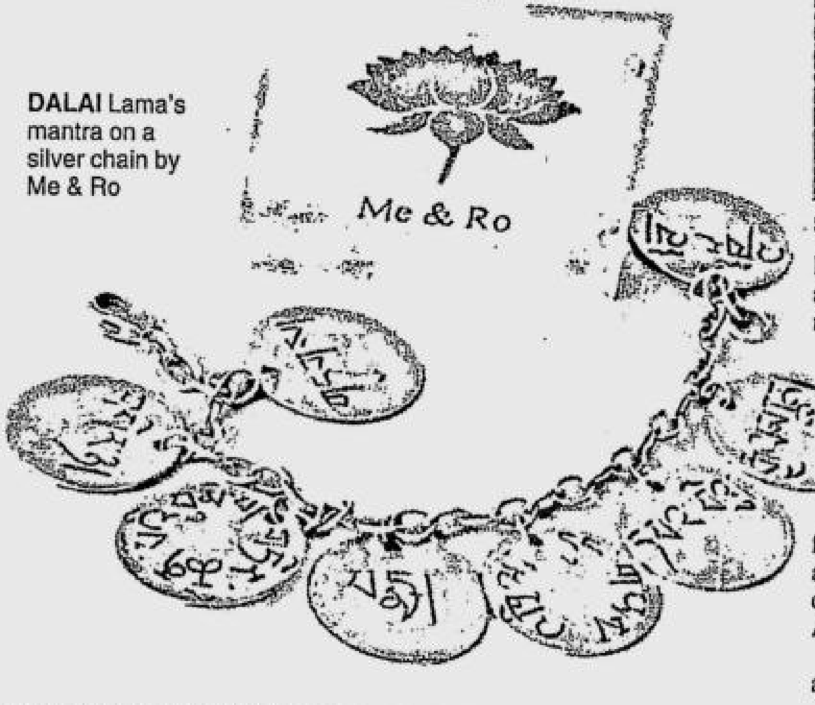
IF you "aspire" for a certain lifestyle, Wish is the store for you. The stuff to live it up in this season of fun and sun are on display here, from swimsuits for the jet-set to the spring/ summer 2001 lines of the hottest names in fashion, and the beauty, bath and body care line that has taken New York by storm.

Heard the name Thomas Maier? Maier, who used to design swimwear for Hermes, is the new king of killer bathing suits. Falling on the right side of sexy while still looking effortlessly chic, these are bikinis and swimsuits with a sophisticated edge. The fashion press has been raving about him. "Graceful, decent and charming," gushed Suzy Menkes of the Herald Tribune.

Then there is Zimmermann—the Australian swimwear label now making waves at Barney's and Bergdorf Goodman.

If you're seeking more coverage, Wish also has some of the most select pieces from the fashion leaders: Dolce & Gabbana who, this season, is inspired by Marilyn, Madonna, bikers and Westerns; Helmut Lang, who is in a sharp bondage-y mood, and Alberta Ferretti, who is feeling flighty, feminine and flirtatious this season.





DALAI Lama's mantra on a silver chain by Me & Ro

SUMMER MUST-HAVE. Shades by Cutler & Gross

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

You've got the clothes, now it's time to accessorize. Gwyneth's hard-to-find favorite bohemian bracelets have somehow found its way to Wish. Me & Ro makes weighty silver bracelets strung in red and carved with messages from the Dalai Lama. Me & Ro finds inspiration in natural forms, the vitality of ancient symbolism and the heritage of diverse ethnic cultures. Plus, Julia, Cameron, Kate and Amber have them on their wrists.

Summer is a time to pamper yourself, whether at sea or at shore. What better way to start the summer than in bliss? Marcia Kilgore, the creator of the oh-so-hip beauty, bath and body line from New York, launches the summer season with Bliss Labs. Take the Sunban Lotion SPF 30, a noncomedogenic, oil-free, matte finish, broad-spectrum sunblock for face and body, and the Freshweight Facebase SPF 30, a tinted broad-spectrum UV guard with aloe and arnica. It's the ultimate "pre" when you hit the sun and water. To induce the perfect tan, try Bliss Labs' Lemon Peel, a zesty exfoliating scrub, and the Lemon and Sage Body Butter, a super-rich rescue for overparched summer skin. Don't forget the UV-protective sunglasses from the hot London-based designer Cutler and Gross, also exclusively available at Wish.

IF you want to hide the bulges, this X-designed maillot by Thomas Maier is slimming.

A stylish summer is not complete without sporty sandals by Sergio Rossi, sexy stilettos by Jimmy Choo or Manolo Blahnik mules. There are the summery striped Hobo bags with vachetta leather from Lambertson Truex. Perfect in structure and style, with strict attention to detail, Lambertson Truex's bags are so well-designed you'd think they began with a blueprint. Recently awarded as Accessory Designer of the Year by the Council of Fashion Designers of America, Lambertson Truex is already being likened to the famed Gucci "Jackie O" bag and the Hermes "Kelly" bag.

Wish aims to bring together the most sought-after names in fashion and lifestyle. Among them are the exclusive line of Creed fragrances and candles, which boast of devotees such as Madonna, Princess Grace, Harrison Ford and John F. Kennedy Jr. For music lovers, there are the hard-to-find CDs like "Costes 3," "Paris Derniere" and "Popperetta" that you can enjoy right at the store's listening station. Throw in the Fujitsu flat plasma screen that runs fashion clips and the latest concerts along with that magazine, Visionnaire, and you'll have a memorable shopping experience.

Wish is located at the Makati Shangri-La hotel's shopping arcade.

Enchanted Kingdom

Be the first to get wet and wild at the Rio Grande Rapids. Special run on March 31 and April 1, 2001 only.

More reasons to experience water excitement this summer.

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Everything you want to know about dandruff

DANDRUFF, scalp care and general hair matters. Let Kerastase help you with everything about these concerns.

Dandruff is a problem but it's not a contagious disease. It's a disorder of the scalp's natural cell replacement process and has two consequences: itching, prickling sensations and unsightly flakes on the hair and shoulders.

The cells that make up one's scalp renew themselves regularly, much like skin cells, but since they fall away one by one, the process is invisible. It takes between 30 and 45 days for the cells to be completely renewed.

In cases of dandruff, this shedding process takes place rapidly and becomes exaggerated to a notable extent: The cells of the epidermis are shed in clumps in the form of visible flakes. This change in the shedding process is caused by a change in quality and quantity of the population of micro-organisms in the scalp called Malassezia Ovalis. This micro-organism is normally present in the scalp but it sometimes causes inflammation of the scalp, which causes acceleration of cell renewal and the shedding process resulting in the appearance of dandruff.

Dandruff proliferates on the scalp because it has an oily area and this yeast-like organism needs a food source, in this case, sebum, which is produced on the scalp. Washing hair every day is only a partial solution because it only eliminates the breeding ground but not the cause.

To get rid of dandruff, Kerastase recommends Piroctone Olamine, an antifungal agent which controls its proliferation. For more lasting effectiveness, this is combined with Salycylic Acid which eliminates the massed cells from the scalp's surface and AHA which slows the thickening of the outer layer of the skin.

According to Kerastase, there are three steps in the treatment of dandruff: Start with the Gelee peeling treatment. Shampoo. Apply lotion to your hair after washing.

So visit any Kerastase salon and get that scalp irritant out of the way.

FLAKES disappear with Kerastase Detox System

Milan in Manila

COLOR, belts, light fabrics, prints, high heels and '80s fashion are the rage in Milan this summer and the Linea Italia shops are brimming with them.

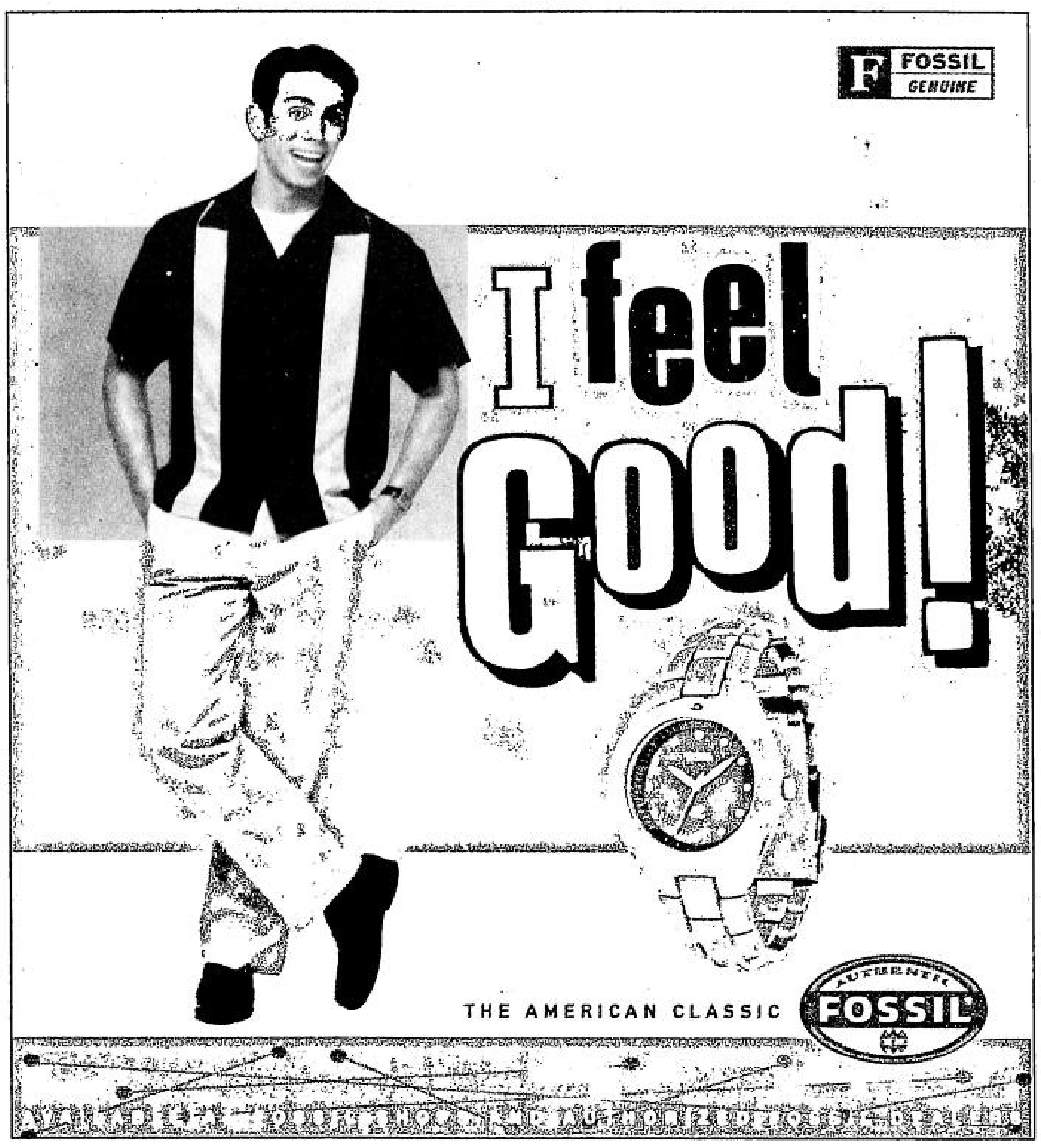
This season's color palette ranges from bright reds, pinks and purples to flesh tones, midnight blues, gold and even black. From Linea Italia's racks come the hip Ennepi Beat pink top paired with Y Valdes pink printed pants, Castellani's purple long-sleeved top and pants, Rose D's bright-red short dress and green checkered top paired with a Sportmax olive green knitted.skirt.

Then there are the belts—skinny and wide—worn over pants and outfits or slung low over dresses.

The hues have not only taken over women's fashion, but that of men's as well. Check out On Line's light blue and cream shirts and Dolce & Gabbana printed blue shirt. They go great with the Trussardi Jeans' blue denim short, Marina Yachting red short pants and Pierro Gazzarrini pink cotton pants.

Also in are featherweight and soft fabrics to keep you cool when you meet the smoldering heat wave like Tunnel's yellow top and billowing skirt.

PINK top from Ennepi Beat paired with Y Valdes pink pants and Katherine lavender sandals



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Ms. Lydia Yongco (Cebu City)
Mr. Alfonso M. Uy Jr. (Davao City)
Ms. Noemi B. Sacdalan (Navotas, M.M.)

Adventure Showcase
Ms. Aurita T. Ong (Lucena City)
Mr. Regie G. Gison (Iloilo City)
Mr. Efren B. Amorte (Makilala Cotabato)
Ms. Dolores B. Bernardo (Ugong, Pasig)

Household Showcase
Ms. Sharonlyn B. Velasco (San Padro, Laguna)
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Mr. Emilio Avengoza (Valenzuela City)

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DRAW DATE: JULY 27, 2001

DRAW DATE: MAY 16, 2001

You"ll want to Pik some more!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0933 Series of 2000

STRIPED T-shirt dress and white islet capri pants

Summer may mean less wear, but it doesn't mean less style

Don't let the sun go down on you

BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

IT may be true that the less you wear, the better you fare. But we all need to cover up even during the hottest of temperatures. So here are a few pieces to see you through summer.

A sarong. This lightweight fabric is usually found in tropical prints, ready to wrap around your waist. Even men can don the islander-look through this piece. It is one of the more popular pieces to take with you aside from the bikini.

A tailored skirt. A pastel gray pin-stripe skirt is corporate and fresh. It does not give you that heavy wool look that a lot of dark pin-stripe pieces do. Pair this with a hot pink top or a white shirt and you will be ready for work.

Pink T-shirt. This is perfect for the sun. Something with a drawstring adds style. It will go well with your bikini bottom if you want your top area covered. You can pair it with a comfortable pair of capri pants.

T-shirt dress. This is a way of saying you are at ease with yourself. This is what you slip into when you just finished shower and you're ready to get out again.

Hand towel. A bright, refreshing blue or orange looks swell.

Think bright, light and practical. Don't let the sun go down on you, especially on your style.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

HOT pink T-shirt with drawstring on sides and light gray pin-striped skirt

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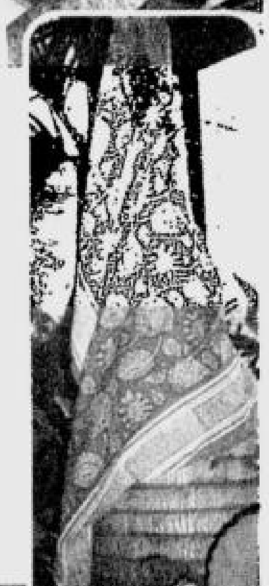

SARONG scarf

DAVE Bunevacz wears an orange sleeveless hooded vest and printed boxer shorts.

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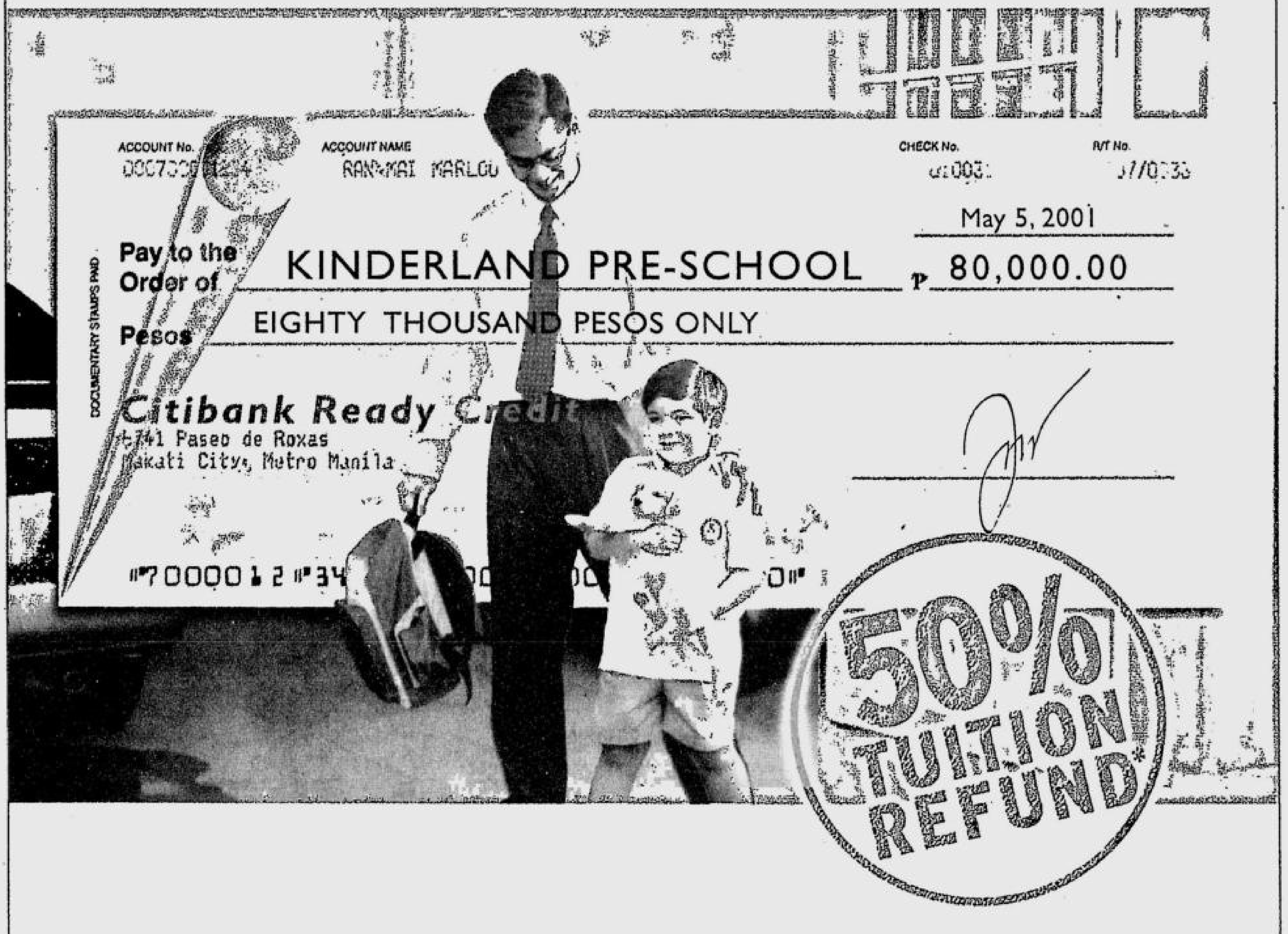
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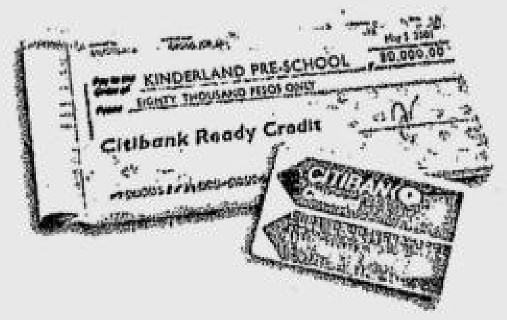
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0357, Series of 2001

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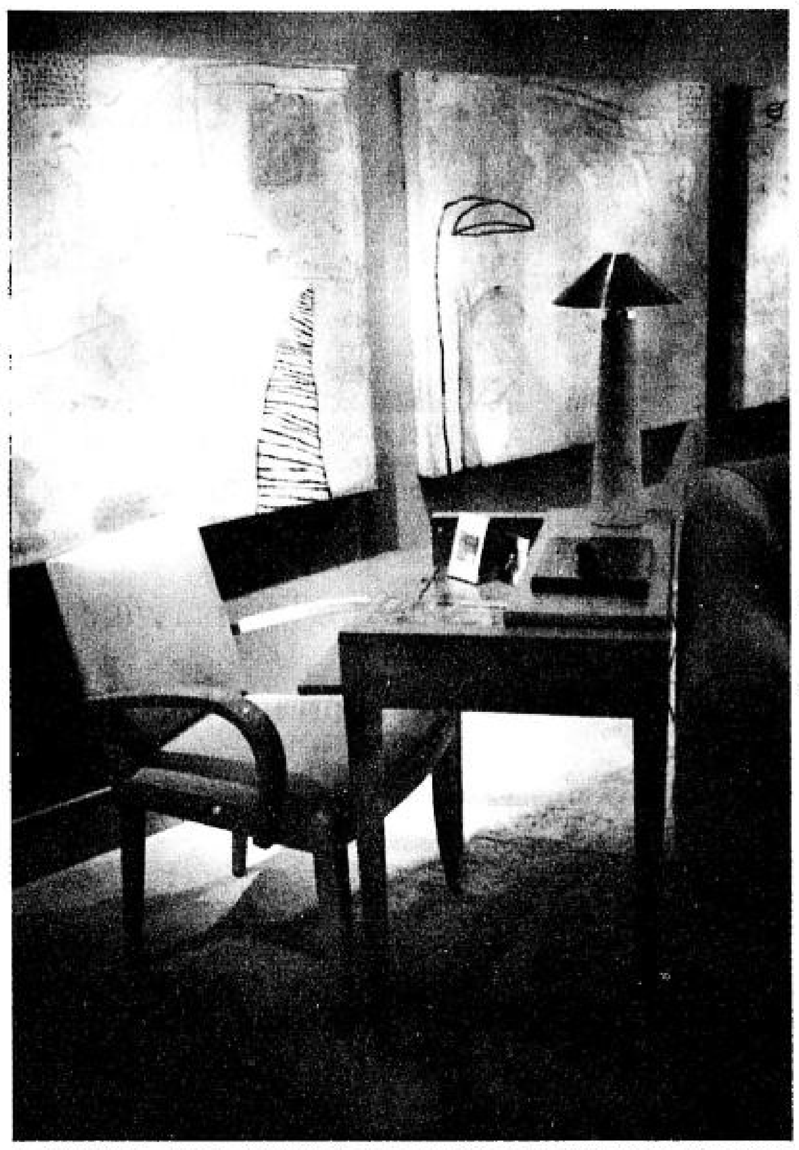
LIFESTYLE Home

The Essensa of stylish living



A STUDY in clean, straight lines and whimsy on the walls via almost primitively rendered unframed paintings characterize San Francisco-based interior designer Joszl Meskan's living room at Essensa's model unit.

BY AVIE GOCHOCO-PEREZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

THE TWO towers that make up Essensa East Forbes in Bonifacio City are shaped like butterfly wings. This is "indicative of the Filipinos' warm hospitality... instead of making [the towers] closed like a circle or hard like a square, we opened [them] up," said Roy Barris, associate of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners of New York, the lead architectural firm behind this top-of-the-line residential condominium project.

The idea is to make unit owners feel a "sense of warmth" when they get home, "a sense of calm surroundings when they're here... [that] Manila's a nice place to live, not just to work... it's like coming to your imaginative force but not having to go through past the gates and barbed wire to get there."

A 290-sq m typical unit at the Essensa sells for about P24 million, more if the unit is on a floor higher than the 10th as each tower goes all the way up to the 30th floor. Higher up, residents get a better view of the serenely exclusive residential villages of Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village, the manicured greens of the Manila Polo Club and Manila Golf Club and, perhaps best of all, a living palette of nature's own gifts—the hills of Antipolo and Laguna de Bay.

At the lobby, an island houses a reflective pool pierced by an Impy Pilapil glass sculpture. When we visited, her men were installing in a niche on the lobby wall a flower arrangement in gold and fragile crystal. Dominant is the color beige, owing to the "imported travertine" stones that line Essensa's walls, all set there virtually by hand. The way construction in this country

THE ESSENSA/ P.E2

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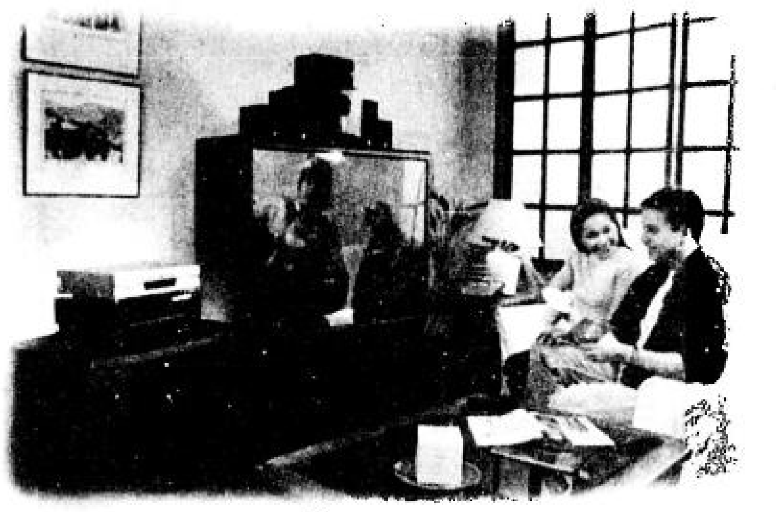

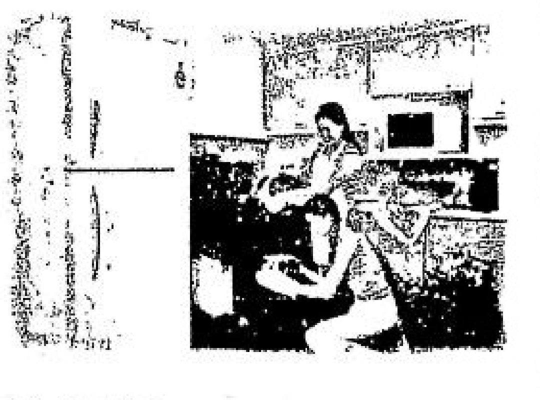

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   5.3 Draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
Feb. 5 to Feb 11	Feb. 14
Feb. 12 to Feb 18	Feb. 21
Feb. 19 to Feb. 25	Feb. 28
Feb. 26 to March 4	March 7
March 5 to March 11	March 14
March 12 to March 18	March 21
March 19 to March 25	March 28
March 26 to April 1	April 4

   A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
   5.4 The ₱1,000 prize will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
6. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   6.1 All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   6.2 Grand Draw will be held on April 4, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
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8. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
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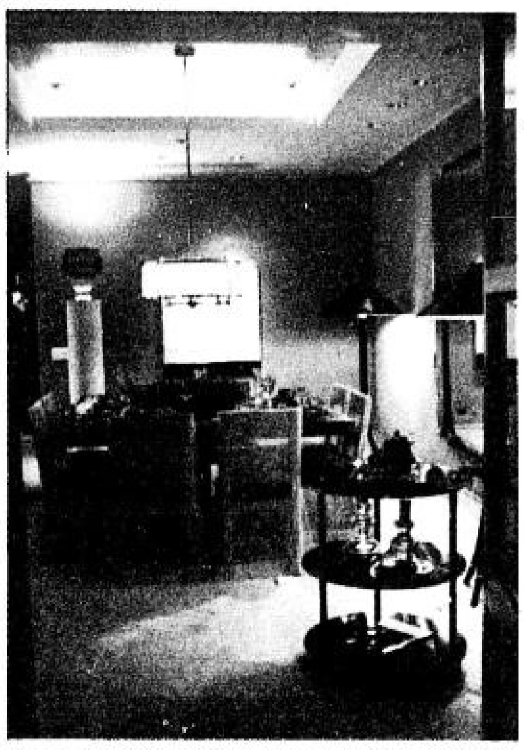
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0284 Series of 2001

THE LIVING room's conversation area is almost monochromatic, save for the occasional tables and the big splash of black in a corner from the grand piano.



A VIEW of the dining area from the hallway leading to the bedrooms: The square alcove on the ceiling lends more height to the 9-ft high ceiling

The quality is twice

better than in New York

for a quarter of the price?

Check it yourself

The Essensa of stylish living

(From page E1)

has preserved much of the handmade touch has inspired awe even among the best architects in the world as it has Barris and his firm.

Private lobby

A whole floor of an Essensa tower—there is the Cameron Tower and the Lawton Tower, named after the streets they front—has only four units. As you exit the elevator, it feels like you're entering your own private lobby to get to your unit. Once inside the unit, an abundance of space greets you. This feeling of abundance of space is helped along by the monochromatic beige that, for example, dominates the model unit that US interior designer Joszi Meskan and Partners of San Francisco dressed up.

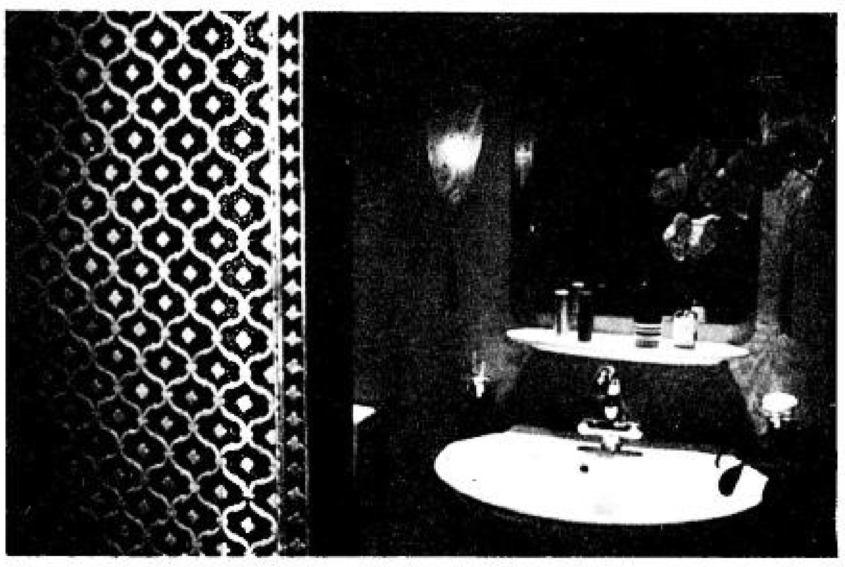
Typically, an Essensa unit has three carpeted bedrooms with their own toilet and bath, with the master bath given a full-size whirlpool. The closet spaces are big. The Joszi Meskan living room is a picture of elegance in beige, punctuated only by the shiny black of a grand piano in a corner.

The square dining table seats eight and is always dressed up formally, with fresh flowers, shining silverware and the best in chinaware, the better to show the unit at its best anytime. The dining chairs are fitted with ultra-fine, see-through cloth which looks almost like *jusi* and which make the dining area seem to blend that much more with the rest of the living space.

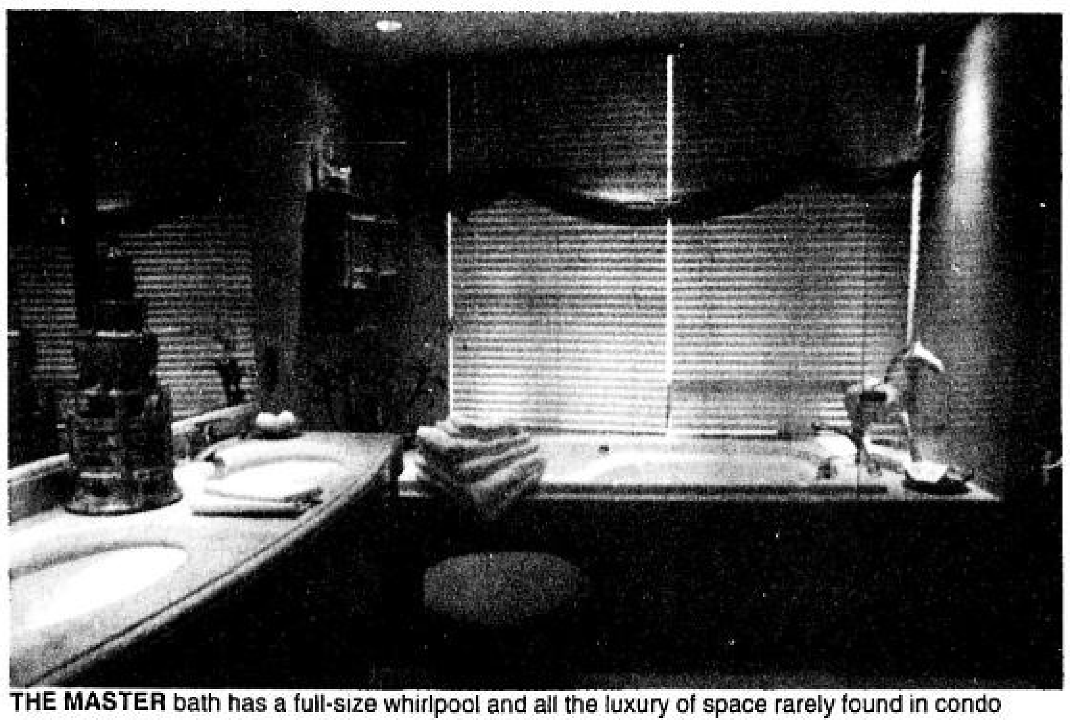
Yes, there is whimsy, too, in an elegant Joszi Meskan interior: The hallway to the bedrooms is stenciled so that it doesn't look too formal and heavy. But it is in the powder room where this whimsy is carried to the full. The double wooden doors opening up to this little room is fully etched, almost Indian-style, perhaps even Moorish in character. The etched doors lend drama to the hallway as only theater can. Stylized vines are hand-painted on the boldly colored walls within the powder room, giving a pretty backdrop to the white of the Villeroy & Boch bathroom fixtures.

An Essensa kitchen is tagged "gourmet-style" for a reason. Granite floors and countertops set off the rich brown of the solid birch wood cabinetry. An entire wall of the kitchen is devoted to a full view of the greenery outside. The classy Sub-Zero brand of refrigerator and freezer has its place in this kitchen as have top-of-the-line German brand–Miele—ovens, cooktops, dishwashers, range hoods and microwaves. There is even an appliance garage atop one of the countertops, a feature that, hopefully,

THE ESSENSA/ P.E4

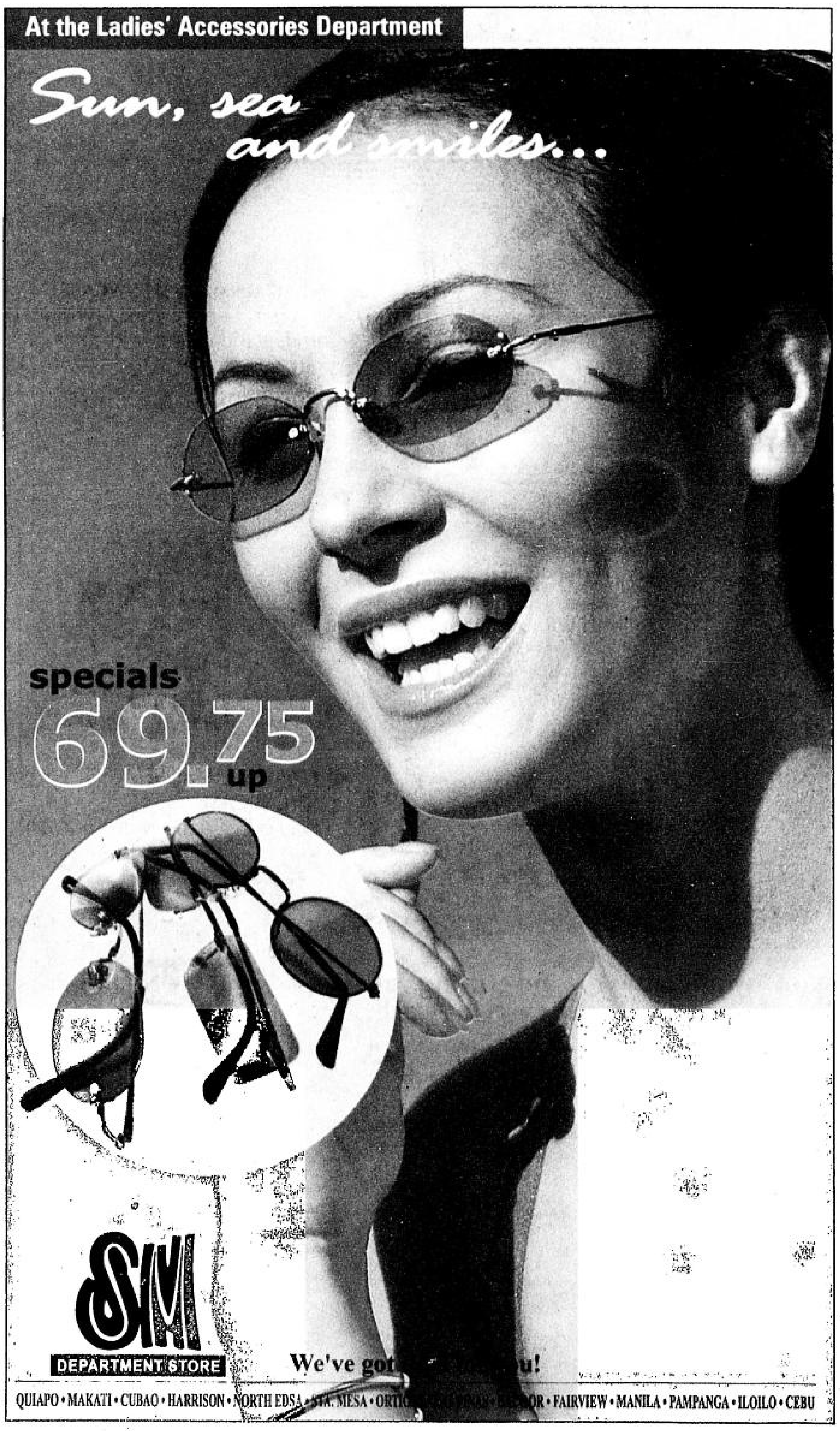


A PEEK into the powder room reveals the adventurous side of Meskan: A rich hint of rouge adorns the walls, along with handpainted stylized leaves. Two Moorish cloth lamps frame the arched mirror. The intricately carved panel on the left is one of a pair of double doors opening into the little room.



THE MASTER bath has a full-size whirlpool and all the luxury of space rarely found in condo units.

THE "GOURMET-STYLE" kitchen with solid birch wood cabinetry, stainless steel-cum-wood furnishings, granite floors and countertops, German-brand appliances, plus an appliance garage on the left in which to keep small appliances out of sight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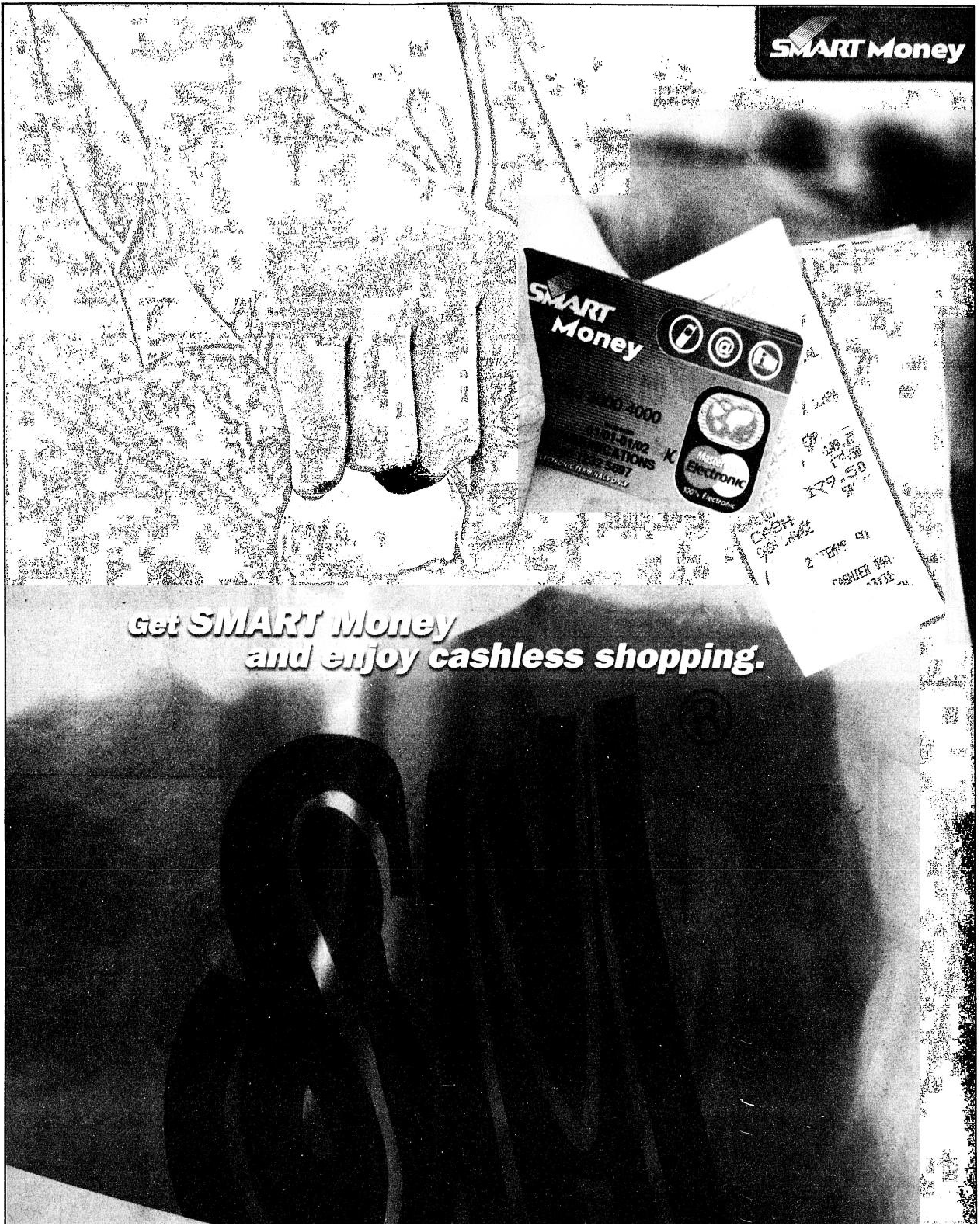
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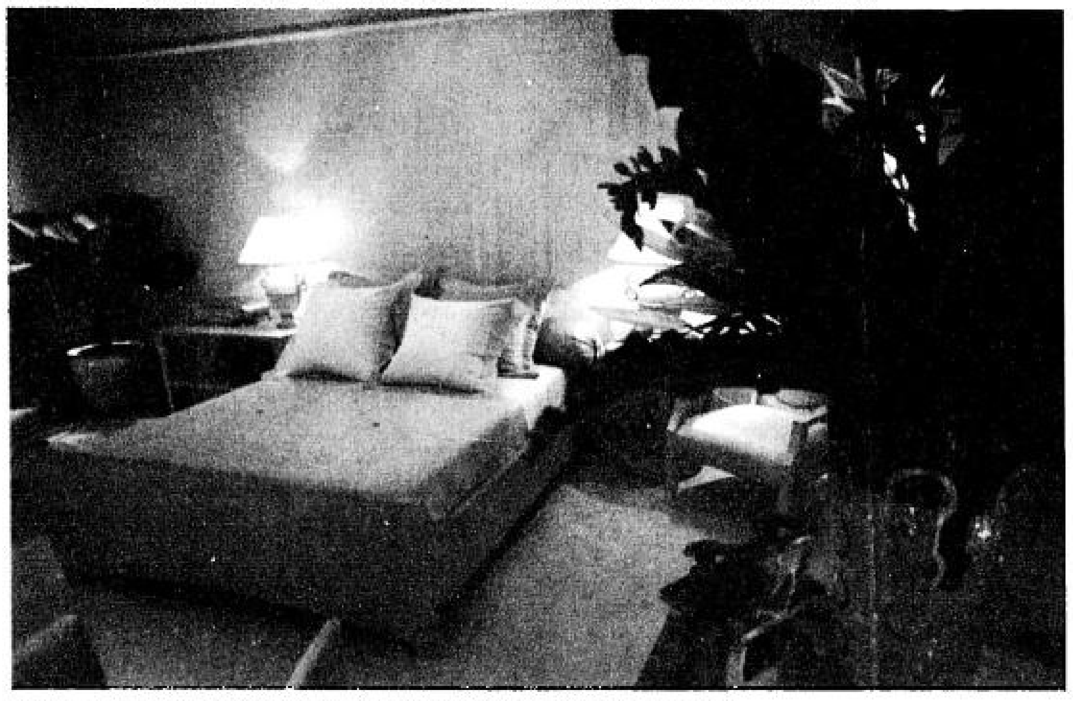
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0622 Series of 2001

THE SQUARE dining table is lit from the top and sides and "doubled" by a mirror on the wall. The chairs are clad in sheer fabric which lend the arrangement understated elegance.



TROPICAL greenery accents the tranquil beige in the master suite

The Essensa of stylish living

(From page E2)

Filipinos will learn to use as such and not as storage space for, say, cereal boxes and packed sugar!

Concession

Perhaps a concession to the local lifestyle is the addition of what Filipinos would call a "dirty kitchen" but which, Essensa-style, is poshly referred to as a "housekeeper's kitchen and utility area." It houses a washing machine and a dryer. The stove's brand name is, in these parts, the more down-to-earth La Germania. There is also a "housekeeper's room" with its own toilet and bath, although there is maid service available 24 hours within the complex. Not only that: "A 24-hour concierge, 24-hour elevator attendant and 24-hour service personnel are on call to provide round-the-clock service. Housekeeping, maid and dry-cleaning services allow residents to enjoy trouble-free upkeep, maintenance and living," boasts Essensa's sales literature. "It becomes the only building in its class to provide all the amenities of a five-star hotel." All these if you can afford to pay the P15,000 in monthly dues as resident.

Who make up the market for Essensa?

Those aged 40 years old and older. Expatriates who lead a fast-paced lifestyle and need a condo which comes with hotel services. Chief executive officers, chairpersons. Asian Development Bank executives. Those who, for example, live in or used to live in mansions in Forbes Park or Dasmarinas Village or other exclusive villages. Those who want to be able to pack up and travel anytime, just locking the door behind them as they leave. A helipad atop each tower is evidence of just that kind of lifestyle for the residents. Three parking slots are also reserved for each unit, with each slot going for about half a million pesos.

They want to be able to just ride an elevator down and get to the spa or the massage and steam rooms or the hi-tech gymnasium or the outdoor swimming pool and an indoor heated pool without traffic getting in the way.

Besides, the concierge downstairs can even book and confirm airline tickets for residents, make restaurant reservations, arrange housekeeping and even give entertainment and leisure information. There's a secretary for you to boot! Discreet security staff give residents the privacy and safety they need. A resident general manager oversees the property, its operations and residents. Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of Meridien Development & Century Properties, owner and developer of Essensa, says: "Such is now becoming not only a trend but a necessity in the very high-end market."

The units downstairs are smaller at 240 sq m and are ideal for the much older market for whom getting in and out of elevators can be a tough job.

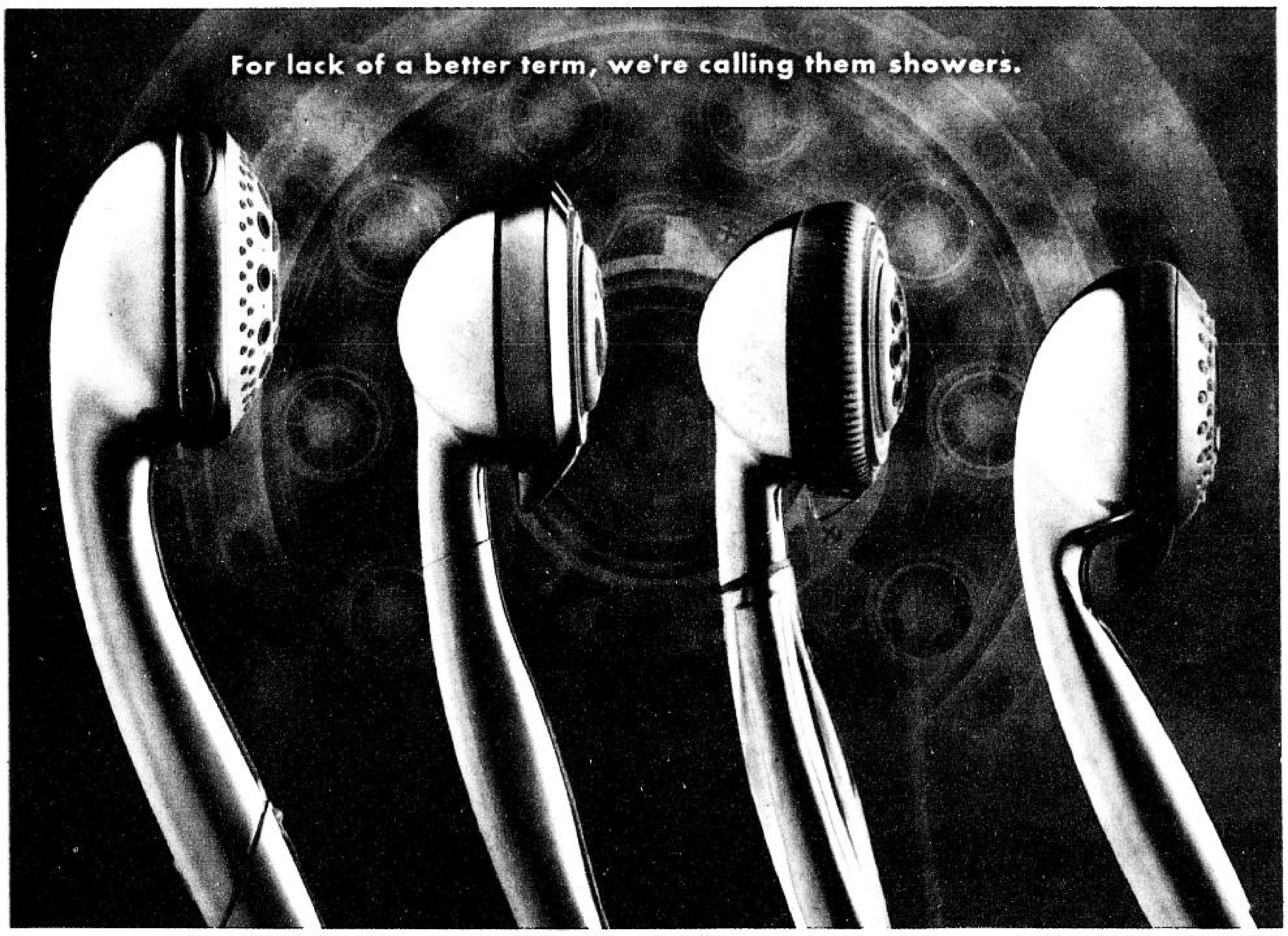
So far, 80 percent of the 236 units of Essensa have been sold. Some 30 units are now occupied.

Nicer than New York

But perhaps what would be music to the ears of those who have bought in Essensa is that they've bought a property that, says Barris, "is the nicest residential condominium tower complex I've ever seen. It's so much nicer than anything I've seen in New York." And his standards aren't low either. His firm's principal, I.M. Pei, is a recipient of the highly coveted Pritzker Prize, architecture's equivalent to the Nobel Prize, for creating "some of this century's most beautiful spaces and exterior forms." Essensa's buyers, Barris reckons, paid only a quarter of the price New Yorkers would normally pay for the property and got twice the quality to boot.

"I want people who live here above all to enjoy," Barris says. "I want people to be in the garden. I don't want this to be apartments, convenient spaces. Oh my God, once you've eaten in its kitchen, once you've appreciated the view in the master bedroom, you've had your Jacuzzi, your master bath or exit the elevator out of that lobby, you must say that this is the best apartment that you've ever known."

Antonio promises his friends and especially those who've bought in Essensa that the building will be even "more beautiful" in 10 years. Says Barris: "I got to say the building is timeless. There's no style here that's gonna go out. That's style."



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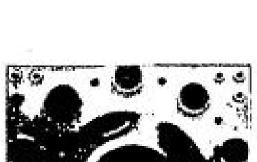

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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

Is there such a thing as artists' vote?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE BIG irony is, as we watched the Chinese invasion of 21st century Hollywood and sank with **Ang Lee** as he lost the Oscars, on the home front, our artists are fighting yet again for their right to artistic creation—a fight older and more worn-out than "Ben Hur" itself. It was as if the likes of **Lino Brocka**, who preceded Ang Lee by a good two decades, never lived.

But at least this time, the vow of Filipino artists to fight the ban of "Live Show" and to threaten a boycott of the administration's candidates in the coming elections should bring us to a moment of suspense—is there such a thing as artists' vote? That is a crucial question. For unless the artists organize themselves into a political bloc that could help swing the vote even if only in the urban centers, then politicians will never sit up and listen. Much less the government.

Artists and culture advocates have never been wanting in articulating their plight. They have the voice and the craft to do it, with significant help from media most of the time – I've seen that since the first day I covered the culture scene. Peta, which has spawned generations of committed artists, has been at it since the '70s. Even Repertory Philippines, with its marketing savvy, has helped promote the cause of theater artists. The Concerned Artists of the Philippines remains a vigilant lot. And the groups of socially involved artists grow and vary by the year. The pre- and post-People Power 2 saw the likes of **Bart Guingona**, **Jim Paredes** and **Joey Reyes** at the helm of social and political change. On the heritage conservation front, **Bambi Harper** and **Toti Villalon** have yet to grow tired.

Yet the writing and mobilizing skills of Bambi and Toti had not been able to save the Jai Alai building. Mayor **Lito Atienza**, ironically one of the city mayors sent by no less than the NCCA to Singapore to observe the building conservation efforts of that city state, didn't give a damn about Bambi, Toti and their fellow advocates. Mayors and politicians pander to squatters, but never to artists, obviously because the latter doesn't comprise a voting bloc. And artists don't have the financial clout either, unlike big business.

Artists and writers can write all the columns they want, chair all the meetings, but at the end of the day, their ballots hardly count.

The sad reality is, artists' passions and penetrating insights are good for column inches and sound bytes, but not for winning or losing elections.

Insights worth repeating

LAST week I watched a most riveting episode of "Debate with Mare, Pare," where **Manoling Morato** predictably clashed with **Pete Lacaba, Bibeth Orteza, Gil Portes** over "Live Show." Those verbal blows could easily have turned into physical blows, if not for the moderating prowess of **Oca Orbos** and **Mel Tiangco**. Morato predictably hit low as he lashed at Portes, the director: "When you came back here from the States, you were so poor," implying, of course, that the starving director would produce any "porno" just to survive. Further into the show, Morato turned to Bibeth to bring up her mother-in-law, Morato's classic enemy, saying that **Armida (Siguion Reyna)** and he are never meant to agree "in this lifetime, perhaps in the next"—to which my colleague had a good addendum: "That's presuming they'll end up in the same place." Bibeth had a good point when she said she felt hurt that the innocence of the young is being used and misused, even after they proved to be mature and discerning enough to make a choice at Edsa.

That show had so many insights worth repeating so that people talked about it for days later. But again they remained in the marketplace of ideas.

The tragedy is artists and culture advocates may win the battle of ideas, but lose the war of logistics. The tragedy is, for now, the squatters have better political clout than artists, if only because the former is a merchandise that can be bought cheap by politicians.

We really hope that's not entirely true. We like to think that People Power 2 truly saw the birth of a Civil Society comprising of awakened citizens not only willing—but more important, organized enough—to see the fight for change and enlightened governance through to the finish. For instance, it saw the muscle of concerned business groups and highly organized quasi-religious communities. The Couples for Christ is an example—it has the organization and the logistics not only to put out full-page ads in the dailies (which aren't cheap) but also to mobilize people. Its machinery is felt down to the young generation, with its Youth for Christ. When I asked **Liwayway Chato** how she hoped to win, she said confidently that she has the Couples for Christ whose network is nationwide.

Unlike the Couples for Christ, the artists unfortunately not only suffer from lack of logistics, they remain a fractious lot. They have always been. This makes them easy prey to political machinations. For instance, with every change of administration, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) are turned into a political football—they are the spoils of war to be had by the victors. At this point, for instance, the new political powers-that-be are poised to take over the NCCA, no matter that the tandem of **Jaime Laya** and **Virgilio Almario** has succeeded at least in putting some sense and direction to culture administration.

Since artists need national politics to see their agenda through, then they must move as a solid political bloc that, for starters, is clear about the candidates they want to support or to junk. They have a captive mass audience to convert—no different from Hollywood celebrities who hype celebrity causes worldwide. The end justifies the fame. In time this should force our politicians to carry culture in their agenda. In time culture should be part of the national political agenda.

If Civil Society is built on such politically developed and mature blocs, it will cease to be an amorphous body but will be a strong agent of change. A mature and empowered electorate yields empowering public officials. Dumb voters yield "*trapos*." Civil society must make a difference.

Until then, politicians won't take artists and culture advocates seriously.

Oscars trivia

ON TO ESCAPIST stuff. Thanks to the commercials, we fell asleep before **Russell Crowe** could wobble onstage in the Oscars replay Monday night. Even our Oscars-obsessed friend **Auggie Cordero** did, but then he had been up since 8 Monday morning awaiting the telecast—a mean feat for an insomniac like him. With his curls and puffed-up cheeks, Russell looked so un-gladiator-like; he looked more cherubic than rugged, you kinda missed his skirt and sandals.

With L.A.'s army of body sculpturists, couture stylists and jewelers, how could Hollywood icons miss? But then there are icons, and there are icons. In mine and Auggie's book, **Julia Roberts** pulled a coup in the vintage **Valentino** black number of superbly sewn organza—part of Valentino's black-and-white finale collection 15 years ago, as Auggie remembered.

The '50s and the '20s continued to be an inspiration, Auggie noted—specifically in **Penelope Cruz**'s lace off-shoulder black stunner, **Juliette Binoche**'s pearl-accented à la Chanel number and **Charlize Theron**'s.

"In Style" applied some fashion science to Oscars' winnings. Through the past 25 years, it noted "patterns" in what winners wore: black ankle-length gowns, showed very little leg; long sleeves; barely any cleavage; hair straight and worn down; red lips; clearly visible earrings, diamond necklaces (1999-2000), but from 1986 to 1998, "no necklace whatsoever was the winner's choice; and no winner ever wore pearls."

There was one actress who defied all these, however—**Diane Keaton**'s Annie Hall look in 1978 (complete with white socks). Now that's an artist's bloc all to herself (without a Manoling Morato).

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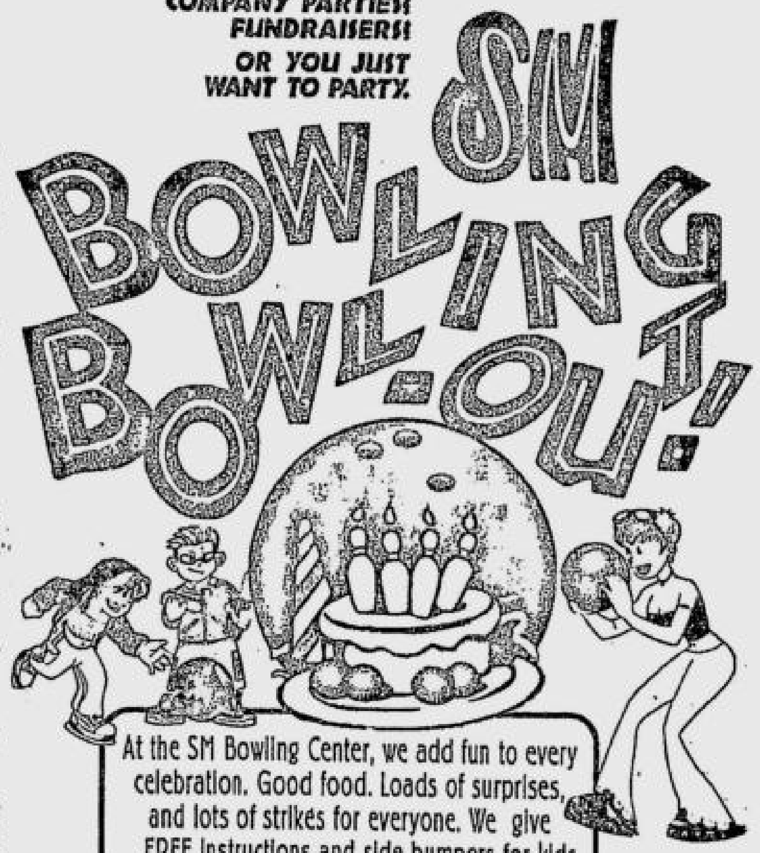

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TWO IN A ROW. After staging an appearance in a beaded red number at the Star Awards, Lucy Torres again stands out in Joe Salazar's yellow orange silk halter. What more could Richard Gomez ask for?

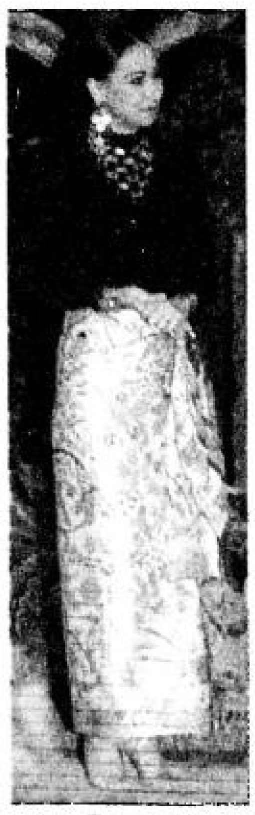
The critical dressed list

In the 24th Gawad Urian, respected film critics protest censorship while stars show up in fashion that even the eyes would find censorious

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Val Handumon

IT was a good thing that the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino has never bothered to cite the best-dressed stars in their 24-year history of giving out the Gawad Urian awards. What the hell for? Doing so would have run counter to the esteemed group's criteria of naming only the best based on consistent, credible and creative efforts.

The recent edition of the Gawad Urian was a case in point. Except for a few notable exceptions, none of the stars who attended the supposedly glittery affair added luster to it.



ETHNIC-INSPIRED. Cherie Gil goes for a sheer long-sleeved black top worn over black bandeau and paired with a silk sarong.

Based on our little black book, it looks like Lucy Torres is poised to score a grand slam. Richard Gomez's better half again stood out in a yellow orange silk halter, shirred to the thighs and a skirt cut at the bias this time by Joe Salazar.

Could nature get anymore unfair? Motherhood has been so kind to her. Less than a year after giving birth to Juliana, a more voluptuous Lucy has emerged in a flowing gown that emphasized her new, fuller figure.

With a face like hers, who needs dish-sized jewelry? Lucy was content to wear a pair of nondescript earrings and bracelet. No diamond necklaces and strands of pearls for her, thank you.

Cherie Gil may not be infallible as far as fashion goes, but her daring choices and regal bearing have never ceased to amaze us. We failed to ask her who designed her outfit, but judging from what she wore that night, we wouldn't be surprised if she herself had put the look together.

THIGH-HIGH. Flawless Rosanna Roces in Maxi Cinco's curtain of a gown held together by a beaded chain.

CURTAIN CALL. A jiggling Barbara Milano wins hands down as the evening's worst dressed fashion victim in cheap swags and a bra top.

This time around filmdom's comebacking *contravida* (the over-extended eyebrows, tough, need a little taming) was as striking as ever in a sheer long-sleeved black top over a bandeau paired with a light-colored silk sarong. She chose a pair of ethnic dangling earrings with matching necklace to cap off the ethnic look.

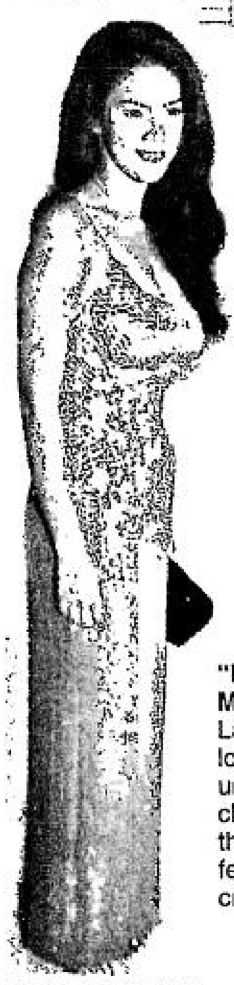
Vilma Santos shined in favorite designer Danilo Franco's beaded aqua halter with sheer accent to cover the cleavage—very Mayor Vi. It has been quite a while since she wore a sleeveless number, she said.

The Star for All Seasons felt uncomfortable to show her arms. (Those killer dance routines she did in her defunct TV show "Vilma" did serve a purpose, after all.) Well, she found a way to partially hide them behind a matching tasseled stole. Actually, the gown would probably look better without it. Those armholes could use some improvement, too.

Patricia Javier's gold sequined number by Frederick Peralta reminds us of a similar Versace outfit American singer Faith Hill wore during last year's Academy awards. The gown (or a similar one), in fact, drew raves from some fashion editors after Peralta exhibited it among other pieces in a pictorial in Europe several seasons ago.

Alas, Patricia isn't blessed with a model's body. Her, ah, droopy chest and poor posture failed to give justice to the gown. It looked gaudy on the bold star, who should have opted for a more discreet look.

STICKY SITUATION. Halina Perez chickens out and covers her nipples with nipple plasters.



THE GIRL, NOT THE GOWN. Slouching Patricia Javier fails to give justice to this sequined number by Frederick Peralta.

"MISS MAGNOLIA." Lara Morena looks like an undressed chicken in this white, feathered creation.

Lara Morena paraded in a spaghetti-strapped white number decked with fringes that reminded us of an undressed Magnolia chicken. The mad-cow scare must have drastically altered her eating habits that they reflected even in her manner of dressing—very fowl!

Halina Perez looked anything but sexy in an embroidered see-through gown with a low V-shaped neckline. She clearly wanted to draw people's attention through her outfit, but probably chickened out at the last minute by hiding her aureoles with a visible pair of nipple plasters. What was the point of the entire sticky exercise, anyway? Well, she did make heads turn for the wrong reason.

Rosanna Roces looked descent for a change, but not for long. Osang first wore a red Rajo Laurel with a draped neckline and a pair of uneven extensions before later slipping into Maxi Cinco's white creation. The draped curtain of a gown held together by a beaded chain was obviously inspired by Toni Braxton's equally bizarre attire in last month's Grammy.

After milking her enhanced breasts dry by exposing them repeatedly during past awards nights, Osang zeroed in this time on her generous pair of hips and thighs. We give her A for daring and C- for her figure. Another visit to Dr. Vicky Belo is in order.

But in spite of herself, Osang would instantly look stylishly chic if put beside a desperate Barbara Milano. The boldie, with a pair of love handles that jiggled all over the place, looked like a transvestite in a two-piece oddity—a beaded bra top and fringed skirt that reminded us of swags normally seen in cheap venues used for staging, well, "live shows."

Sonia Ronda and her band of "moral terrorists," as resigned MTRCB chair and Manunuri member Nicanor Tiongson described them, must be up in arms at the sight of a beaded Barbara beamed through their living rooms.

Well, it's time they start taking their cue from our country's movie critics: rather than fulminate at everything and anything that displeases their taste, the Manunuris have wisely chosen to ignore it.

SEASON OF AQUA. Vilma Santos in a sleeveless semi-beaded gown with sheer accent by Danilo Franco

MANOY MOVES. Eddie Garcia looks dapper as ever in a pin-stripped double-breasted suit.

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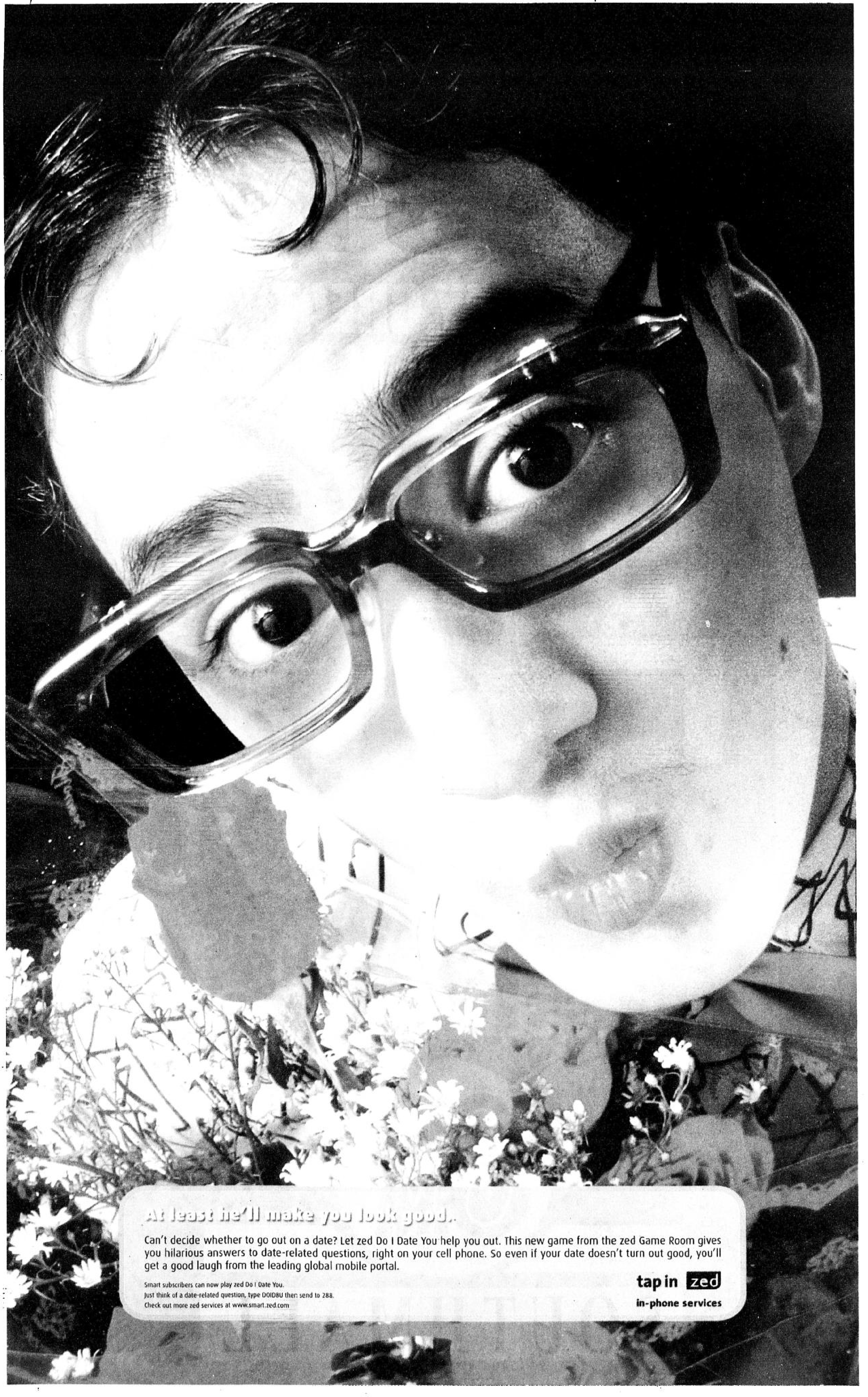

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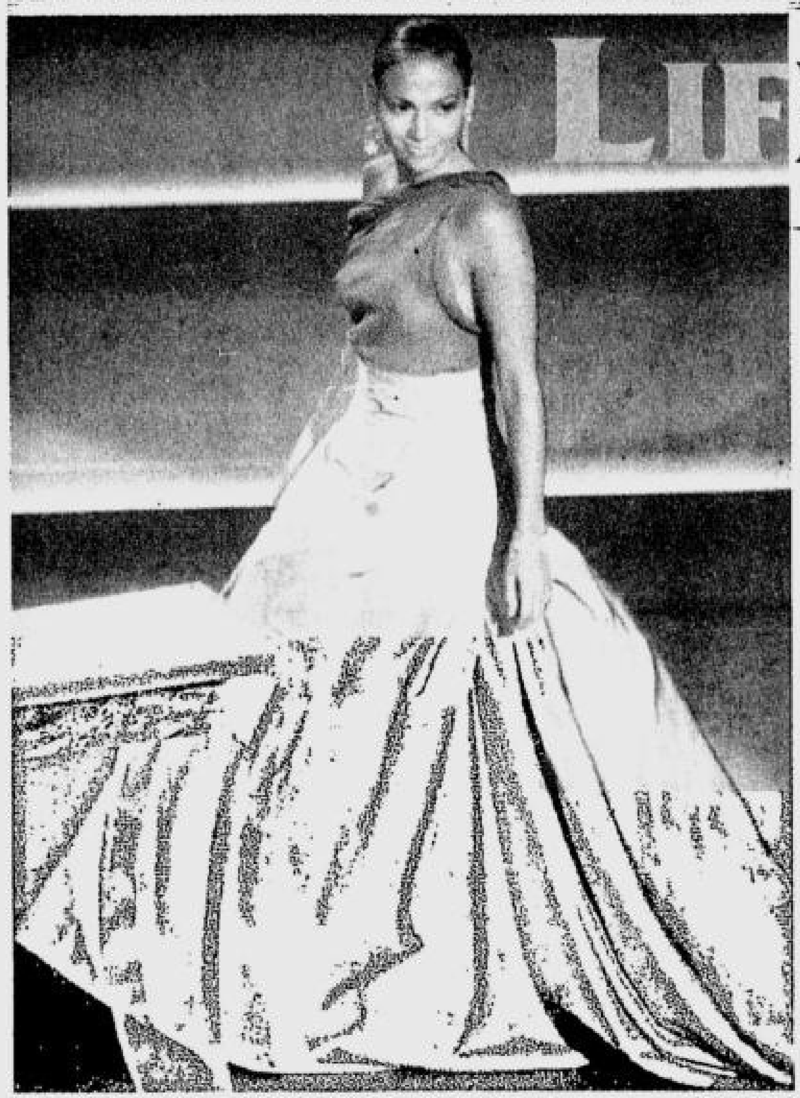
LIFESTYL Trend Spotting

A pseudo-scientific analysis of awards-night dressing and other forms of fashion dementia


JENNIFER Lopez

PHOTOS: AP

'Pang-award'

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES

THERE is a season reserved for this each year. It comes right on the eve of the impending summer when the short cold spell in the tropics gives way to the humidity and heat. It takes place right before the Santacruzan or the even more fantastic Flores de Mayo celebrations. A stretch of two months or so of filmdom's self-congratulatory exercises usually held at the UP Theater and brought to the comfort of homes via delayed telecast.

Yes, it is the film awards season, coinciding with the synthetic excitement across the Pacific Ocean (brought about by intensive marketing strategies of major studios) called the Oscars. Well, Hollywood has its big commencement ceremonies at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, complete with red carpet, bleachers and dozens-of-nations simultaneous broadcast.

This is the time when the nominees for all the major categories become the object of such intense publicity—not because they have achieved such extraordinary feats as finding a cure for AIDS or a better option for Minoxidil for cases of premature baldness. It is all about hype, about pushing nominated films and performances to guarantee an extra box-office push both in the American continent and overseas. It is about getting extra millions and better film offers for a star after he or she is bestowed that trophy, which is actually a sexless golden creature holding what looks like an extended toothpick.

Ego trip

No such thing here... those fabulous fringe benefits. Winning as many Urians, Star Awards or Famases does not and cannot guarantee that your manager can barge into Mother Lily's office and demand a 300-percent increase in your talent fee. No such marketing hype here: studios will not spend one-page ads on trade papers (what trade papers?) or even send video tapes of films and performances they are pushing with violators stating "For Your Consideration."

Filipino film awards are purely ego trip—and recognition of merit, regardless of how you define this honor. No cash incentives, no career voucher but only another trophy to add to the *eskaparate* or, in certain cases, tangible proof that you have become a "serious" actor to reckon with. For a sexy actress whose specialization is disrobing at the slightest provocation, an acting trophy is an affirmation that she is following the career path of Jacklyn Jose... you know, once-upon-a-time bold star but now one of the best Filipina cinema actresses? For a stud puppy to finally clinch any of the trophies, then he is doing a Richard Gomez—from poster boy to serious dramatic performer. Everything else is incidental and peripheral.

Besides, film awards come and go each year. And even if you have more trophies on your shelf than movie offers received in a single year, the movie going audience has a very, very short memory. No one is going to remember who won what, where, when, how and why after more than 12 revolutions of the planet earth around the sun.

But, like the Oscars, what adds interest and pizzazz is how the actors and actresses present themselves in that annual Bacchanalian feast of self-congratulations. The spectacle of the Oscars is not much the cheesy production numbers or the phenomenal use of hydraulics on sets that rise, disappear, spin and even do cartwheels. The uniqueness of the American Academy Awards is not about the *golpe de gulat* technology that makes the average television spectator gape and wonder how the hell they did that number. It is all about the glamour of the stars: how they look, how they behave and how they are packaged.

Yet very few people realize that even in these moments meant to be candid and occurring in real time, these demigods actually come packaged when they attend the ceremonies. Remember, billions of people have their eyes transfixed on what Gwyneth will wear, how beautiful Charlizé looks or what's all that fuss about Chloe Sevigny. This year, everybody wanted to know what Julia was going to wear. Actors and actresses come as walking ads since the photo-ops that accompany the ceremony should prove to be the single most effective advertising campaign conceivable.

Fashion coups

For instance, when Miuccia Prada made a highly exclusive dress for Uma Thurman as she was nominated for Best Supporting Actress for "Pulp Fiction," that single fashion moment escalated the industrial nylon bag maker into a major proponent of au courant dressing. Or when Nicole Kidman wore that unfathomable shade of green especially made for her by John Galianno, she rose above the stature of her slightly shorter yet more famous husband by landing in more fashion magazines than she had ever imagined.

In other words, fashion designers literally kill to have their clothes worn by nominees in order to get all that free advertisement and publicity. Nominees are wooed, pampered and close to deified by couture houses for that single great night of their lives. There is that story about Kim Basinger and her Escada outfit especially fitted hours before the actual Oscars. There is that hubbub about last year's Best Actress, Hillary Swank. The girl who came from nowhere to become the toast of the town had so many gowns lined up for her to wear to the big event before she finally chose to look

'PANG-AWARD'/ p.G3

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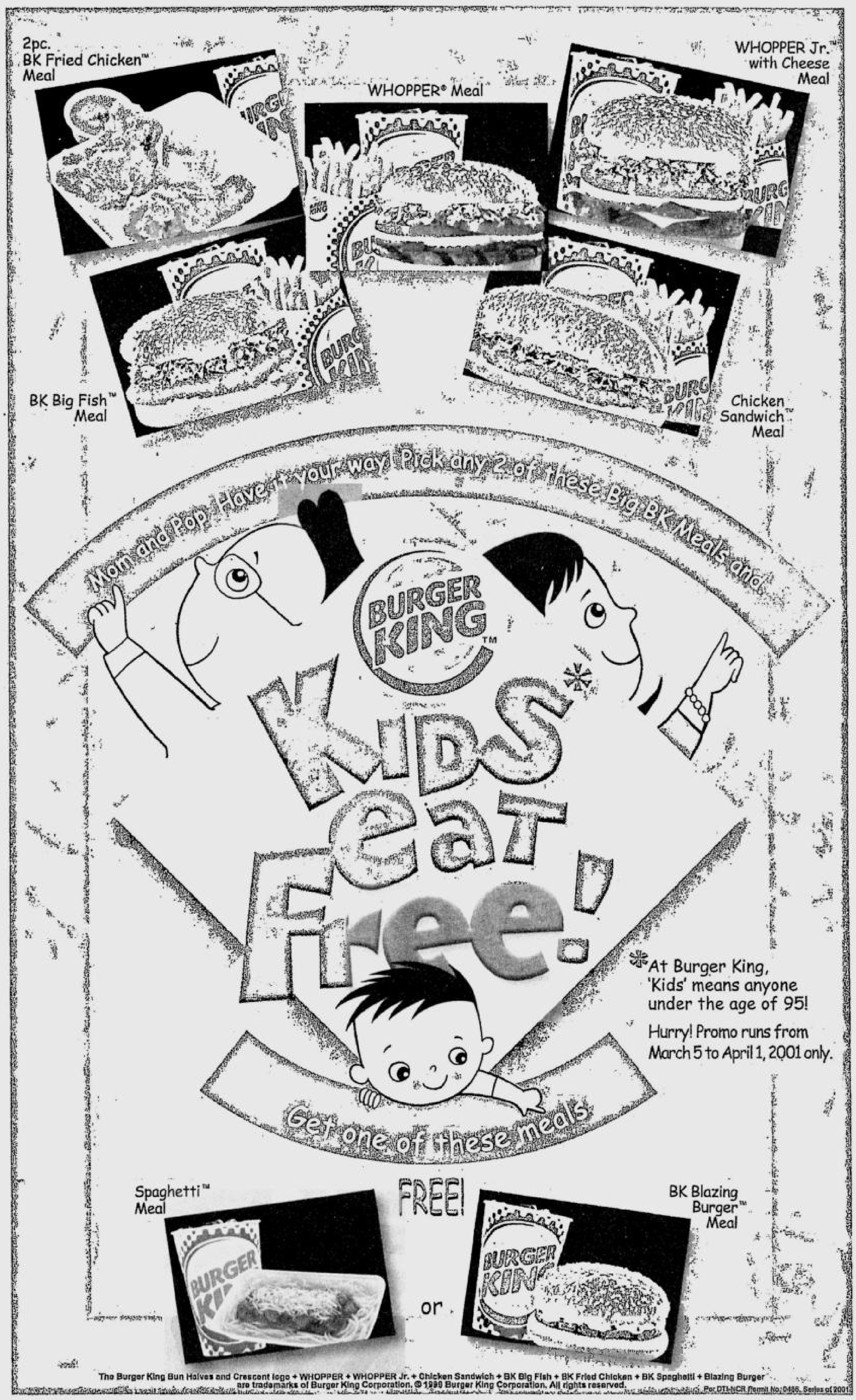

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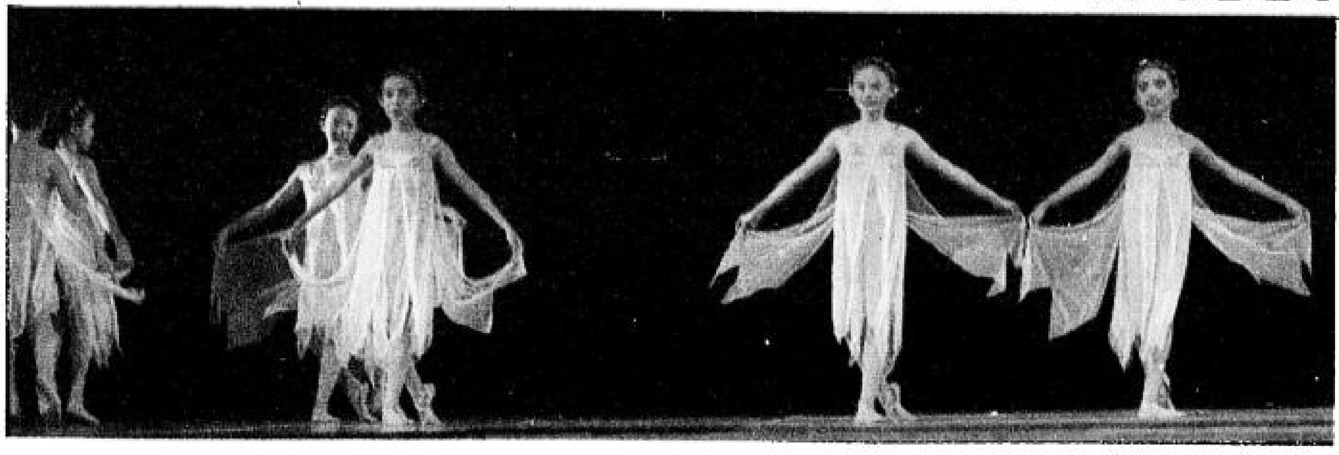

St. Theresa's College holds summer ballet course

ON APRIL 2 to May 26, an intensive course for ballet students will be conducted at St. Theresa's College, D. Tuazon Street, QC. The course will be supervised by Tita Radaic, an associate at London's Royal Academy of Dancing and principal author of the Philippine Ballet Syllabus, sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Students from ages 5-8 will use the Royal Academy of Dancing (London) Syllabus, while older students from age 9-18 will train with the NCCA-supported and newly launched Philippine Ballet Syllabus, written by Radaic, Noordin Jumalon and Vella Damian.

The Philippine Ballet Syllabus has culled the best from the British, Russian, Chinese and Italian methods and was written to meet the needs of the Filipino student, taking into account his/her physique and temperament. It is the first-ever Philippine Syllabus with a printed textbook to guide both students and teachers. The textbook has been printed with a grant from the NCCA, which considers this a landmark achievement in the history of Philippine ballet.

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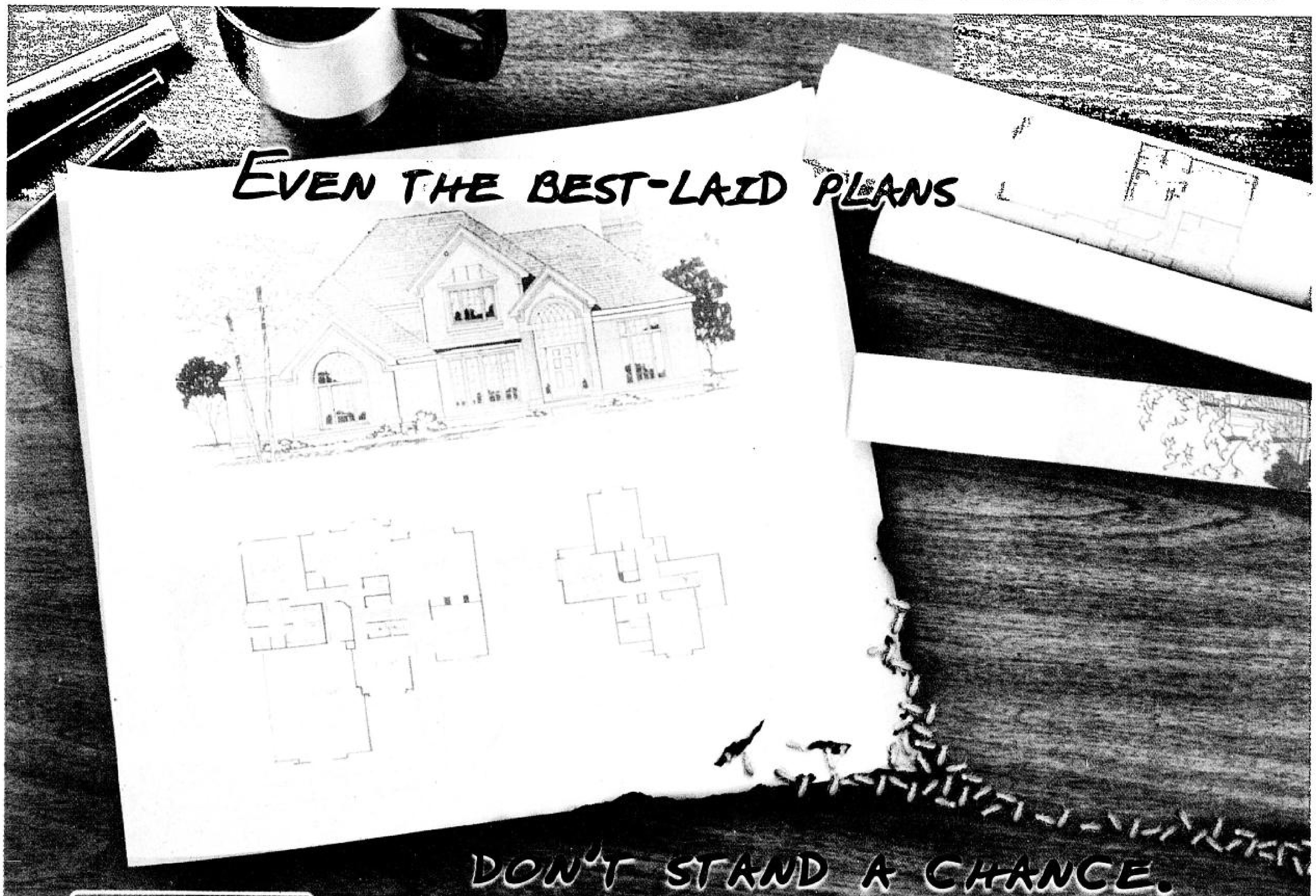

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'Pang-award'

(From page G1)

like a copper Cinderella, thanks to Randolph Duke.

Even jewelry is generously loaned by Harry Winston and other famous establishments to embellish the earlobes, necks and even foreheads of those who will be caught by the spotlight and telecast all over the world. It is all about illusion… and selling. Oscar night is not just a graduation ceremony—it is more like a fashion trade fair where everything that moves and breathes is actually meant to be sold.

We don't quite have it like that out here, folks. But we do desperately try.

Tedious songs and dances

Film awards nights stretch into the wee hours of the morning where those who attend should take a very early heavy dinner—and definitely not merely a light snack. These events take forever to finish, with a production number inserted after every possible section, not to mention video inserts during the telecast period. Mounted on sets that defy the imagination and spice up with dance numbers that have nothing to do with movies—or marathon medleys with as many performers as you can ram into a program (who also have nothing to do with movies), local awards night are kind if they end after three hours.

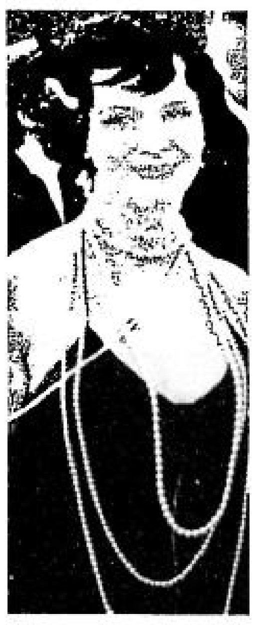
And, of course, the curiosity has got something to do with the stars who attend the festivities looking as if this were the last night of their earthly existence. After all, TV audiences cannot sustain their interest in a show for the visual delight of seeing who won Best Editing or Best Screenplay, right? And definitely, unless they are relatives, they do not get their high even in the most emotional moments when the honorary award is given to a specimen of living history in Philippines movies. Just like anything else, it is all about how the actors and actresses dressed themselves for that trip to the UP campus.

Here's the rub: our version of couture houses do not exhibit great generosity in donating evening gowns, barong tagalogs or even tuxedos to our beloved actors. Unlike the merchandising Valhalla of the Oscars, local performers have to buy their own clothes that they know they can only wear once under the scrutiny of the public. But that is their occupational hazard—the unique yet almost unimaginable expense that goes hand in hand with being in the entertainment business.

JULIA Roberts in a vintage Valentino

Worse, when a gullible actress wanting one earth-shaking fashion statement gives up her soul to the fantasies of a couturier who wants to prove, once and for all, that he is the heir-apparent of Christian Lacroix and Alexander McQueen (even if he has not ever heard of them), the result is nothing short of a disaster that can only be matched by the Pinatubo explosion a decade ago.

Excess



JULIETTE Binoche

There lies a substantial and even philosophical difference between being avant-garde and looking weird. This is a culture where aesthetics is measured by excess—and where visual impact is equated with a major car accident at the North Expressway. Actresses who are a bit careless about their fashion sense tend to look like transvestites doing their swan song—or intergalactic characters in dire need of a science fiction scenario. Every possible nightmare, every imaginable violation labeled as couture are compounded on living examples of not only fashion victims, but fashion tragedies.

What makes this all the more amusing is that they are actually convinced they look beautiful. Or so said their fashion designer or their hairdresser (who has been under the influence of prohibited drugs ever since he learned to use a hairdryer).

For the womenfolk cherishing these fantasies, the usual attack is to look irrevocably sexy. By sexy, the charitable exhibition of mammary glands (natural or science-enhanced), the exposure of flesh in the navel area, upper thighs or even the curvature of the derriere are the predictable formula. Sometimes the suggestion of these interesting anatomical parts is not enough: they are literally exposed for the gaping audience to see, thinly veiled by fabrics that should be kept away from cigarettes or accentuated by enough glitters from last year's Christmas tree.

These include young actresses who want to look mature and mature actresses attempting to be visually young. In both cases, they end up as mutations. And there are the females who take the event too seriously, draped in fabrics so out of sync with the fact that the television spectacle is actually sponsored by a leading detergent, an anonymous brand of toothpaste or even an insecticide.

Keanu wannabes

The male of this species has better options than his American counterparts. The customary tux is really far too hot to wear on the eve of summer. This might as well be. The simple classic case of the formal suit can morph into new frontiers of permutations with materials that look like they were purchased from a upholstery warehouse. We all know the "Matrix" sequel is in production and that every other guy wants to look like Keanu Reeves but just how many Neos can you get for the past two years?

MICHELLE Yeoh

Even the more nationalistic among our actors can desecrate the barong tagalog with such natural aplomb, thanks to the unbridled imagination of their haberdashers. Every imaginable color, design and experimentation has probably found some form of incarnation or the other when you see actors indulge in the courageous experiments of their dressers. Embroidered, matted with sequins, collarless, whatever. That must be what is commonly called *artista* license.

We do not have stylists to tell our actors and actresses that there is a limit to visual assault… or that there is indeed a calibration to define "pretty" from "pretty acceptable" to "pretty intolerable."

Oscar night is like a fashion trade fair

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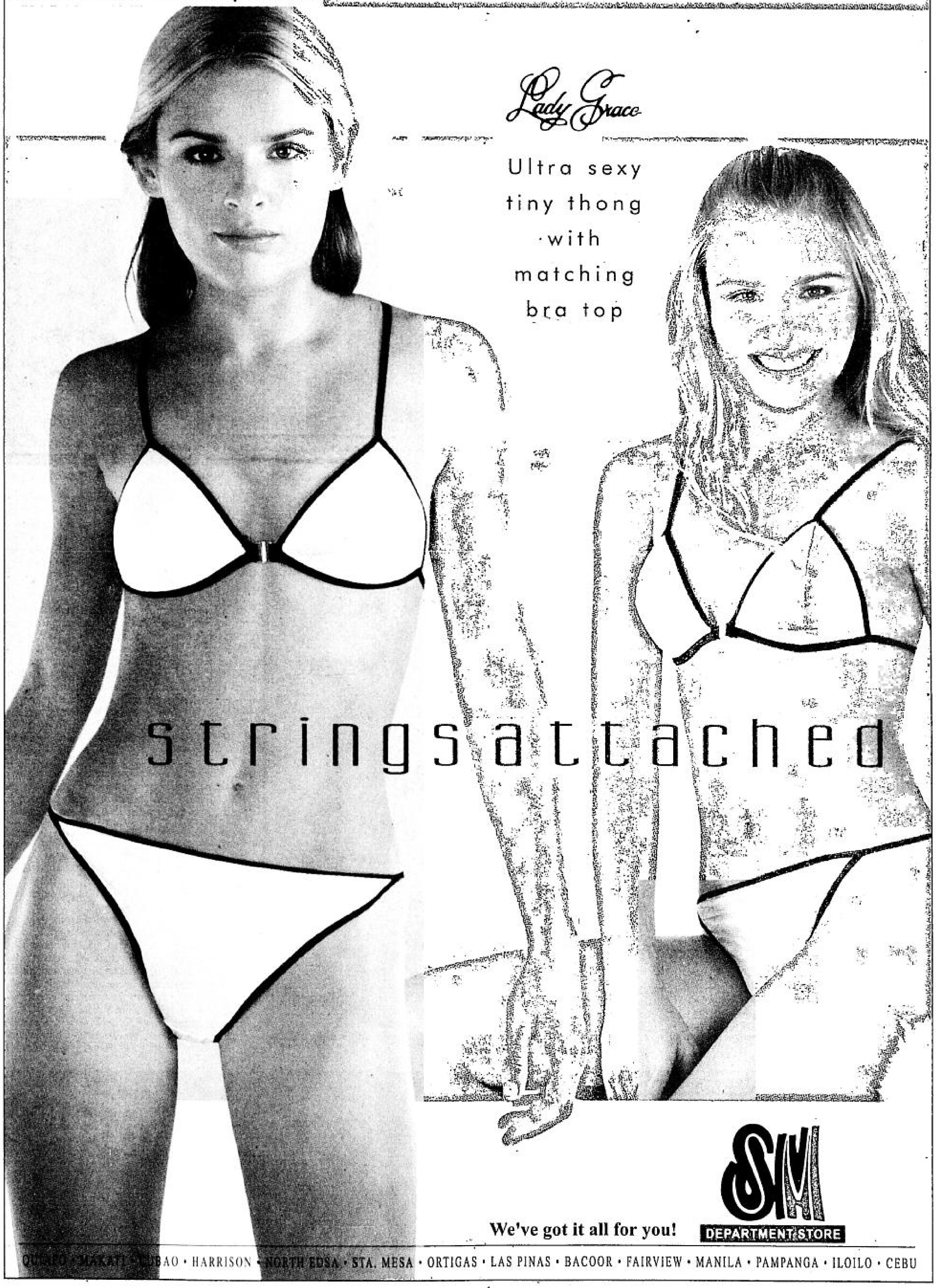

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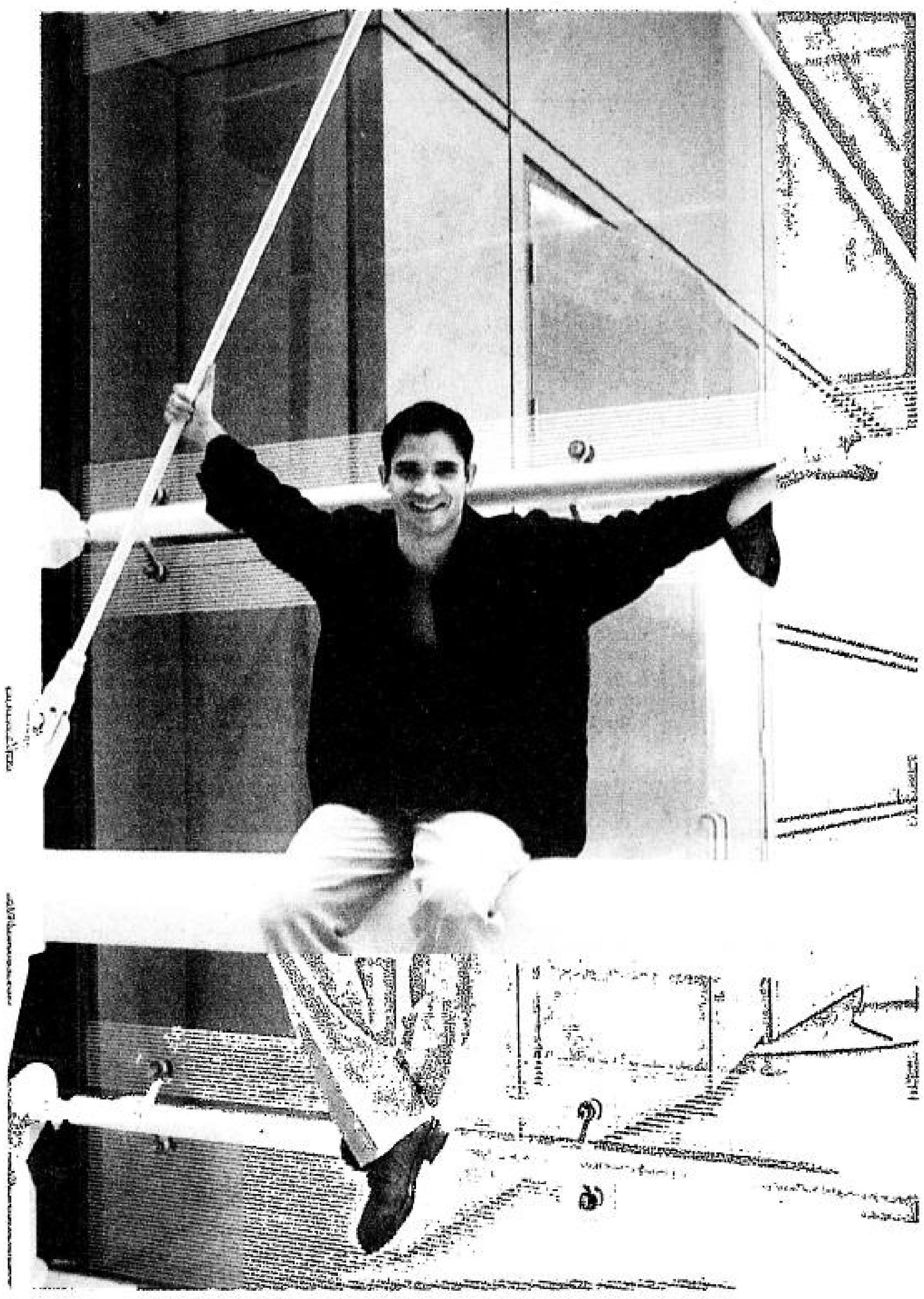
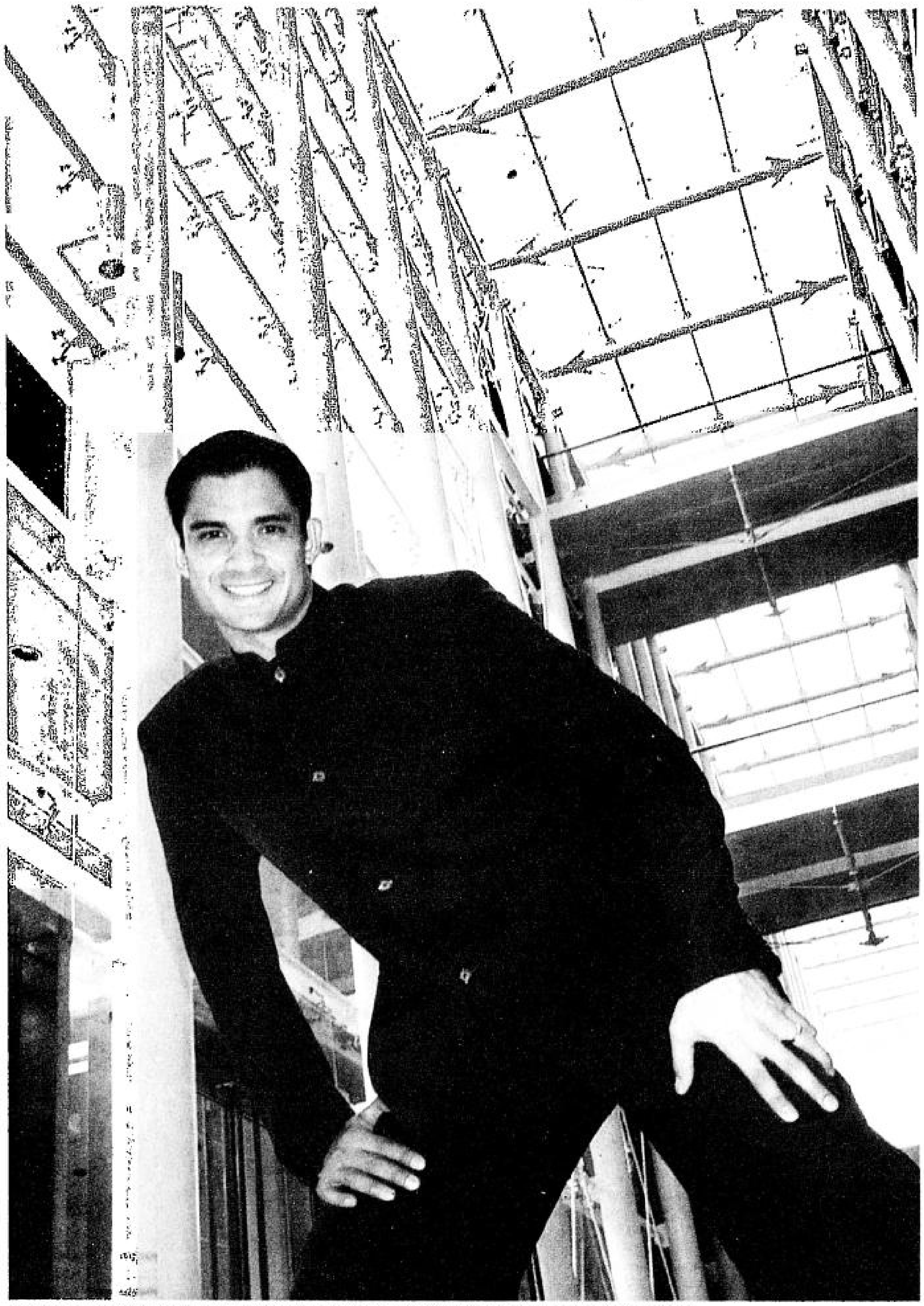


GOING casual with Pepito Albert



DAVID wears a Nehru jacket with match pockets and flat-front wide pants by Anthony Nocom.

The David who likes to do things on a Goliath scale

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

WHATEVER David Bunevacz does, he likes to do it on a great scale.

From the time the Filipino-American-Hungarian athlete arrived in Manila in 1995, he became an instant celebrity. The decathlete turned TV host and movie actor got a lot of media attention for his larger-than-life persona. Last year, he flabbergasted everyone when he married the controversial Jessica Rodriguez—as if on impulse—and organized a garden wedding in Fort Bonifacio, replete with fireworks and famous guests.

Then he surprised us again with his foray into the movies. He is managed by Jacob Fernandez. To get his feet wet, he played a villain in Viva Film's "Tusong Twosome" with Janno Gibbs, which became a hit. Now he's training with Robin Padilla at the Elorde boxing gym for a big movie.

Bunevacz in the movies? When he was interviewed for Playtime five years ago, he said he had no plans for the movies since he wasn't an actor. Now friends jest, "I told you so."

Bunevacz told Viva he was comfortable in villain roles since he felt he looked the part. But that's only No. 3 in his agenda.

His main priorities are his work in a multinational and multimillion-dollar construction company and his "instant family."

Corporate guy

Over tea at Struan and Tang, Bunevacz had acquired the singsong Pinoy inflection. He's the type who jolts you out of your doldrums with his energy, enthusiasm and wry humor. He enjoyed talking about big ideas and exciting possibilities.

ITALIAN-INSPIRED three-piece suit and white shirt with French cuffs and black-and-white tie by Paul Cabral

Bunevacz talked about plans for the company to go public. The career move gives him more respect. For so long, he's been stereotyped as the athlete and host for a sports program and special events.

"I see our future in the corporate world. I didn't graduate from one of the top universities in the United States with an economics degree for nothing," he said.

He knows what hard work is like. He's been in the hotel and restaurant business with his father since he was 14. Because he was tall and muscular, people thought he was of legal age to work. He'd work for 12 hours, assisting in banquets and big functions. When Bunevacz graduated from the University of California Los Angeles with an economics degree, he worked at the Marriott hotel in Los Angeles. In less than three years, he became food and beverage director, albeit the youngest and the fastest to rise from the ranks.

In 1995, Bunevacz, came to Manila for a vacation. Everybody went gaga over him. Sports officials dangled him incentives to join the Philippine team in the decathlon territory. Things didn't turn out as planned. He talked about his frustration with Philippine sports. He had spent half of his life in sports and quit in 1998 due to dirty politics in the sports organizations.

Life with Anjanette

His three-year romance with actress Anjanette Abayari turned into disillusionment. Filipinos speculated that they were going to get married. Instinctively Bunevacz knew it wasn't going to last, citing differences not only in their backgrounds but also between their parents.

"It's very important to me that my parents get along with my spouse's parent," he said.

To this day, friends still ask Bunevacz how he could he have been so "clueless" about Abayari's substance abuse. He observed that her addiction was gradual. In the first two years, the relationship sailed smoothly. On the third year, Anjanette seemed to have assumed a very withdrawing disposition. She behaved strangely which led to big fights that had Bunevacz moving out six times and blaming himself.

She flew to Guam to grace a special event. For the first time Bunevacz didn't travel with her because he was taping in the province for his TV show.

There was a big hoopla about Abayari getting caught in Guam for bringing shabu. Bunevacz felt that God was watching over him and spared him from the embarrassment.

Meeting Jessica

But no matter how hard life gets, Bunevacz was born with a lucky streak and things always got better.

After the final split, Bunevacz started going out every night for two months and women lusted after him. He also had heard about Jessica Rodriguez and her dalliances with Jean-Claude Van Damme and Mar Roxas.

"I didn't want to talk to her. I didn't find her attractive at all. She wasn't my type," said Bunevacz. At a party, Jessica sat beside him in the couch and talked to him for more than two hours. As they walked to the elevator, she kissed him. "Oh my God, what is this?" he thought. It was the start of a relationship.

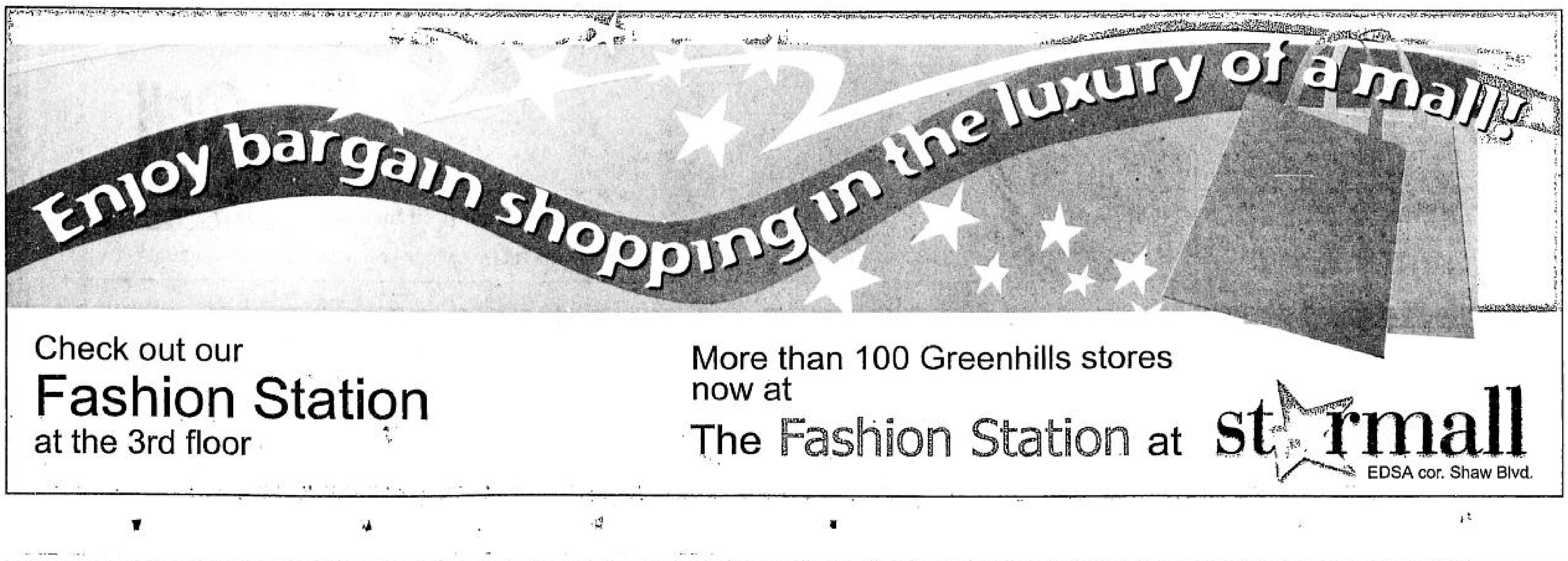
In a few months, they felt so comfortable with each other and shared the same vision in life. Ten months after their first date, they got hitched. Wasn't it a fast courtship?

"People have to understand one thing. It's not two 20-year-olds getting married. We're both mature enough," Bunevacz replied. They're both 32.

"We've been through a few relationships. We know what infatuation is. We know what passion is. We know what love is. I told my parents since Day One that I wasn't going to get married until after I turn 30 years old. I knew it will take me until then, when I was mature enough, to finally realize that I wanted to settle down," he said.

They made the plans first before the actual proposal. In November, the couple flew to Los Angeles to buy the Vera Wang bridal gown and the groom's Prada suit.

He also wanted to propose on the beach where he grew up. At sunset, he got down on his knees with the engagement ring. When Jessica gets surprised, her trademark reaction is to hit the person, which she did when he suddenly proposed. As her eyes mois-



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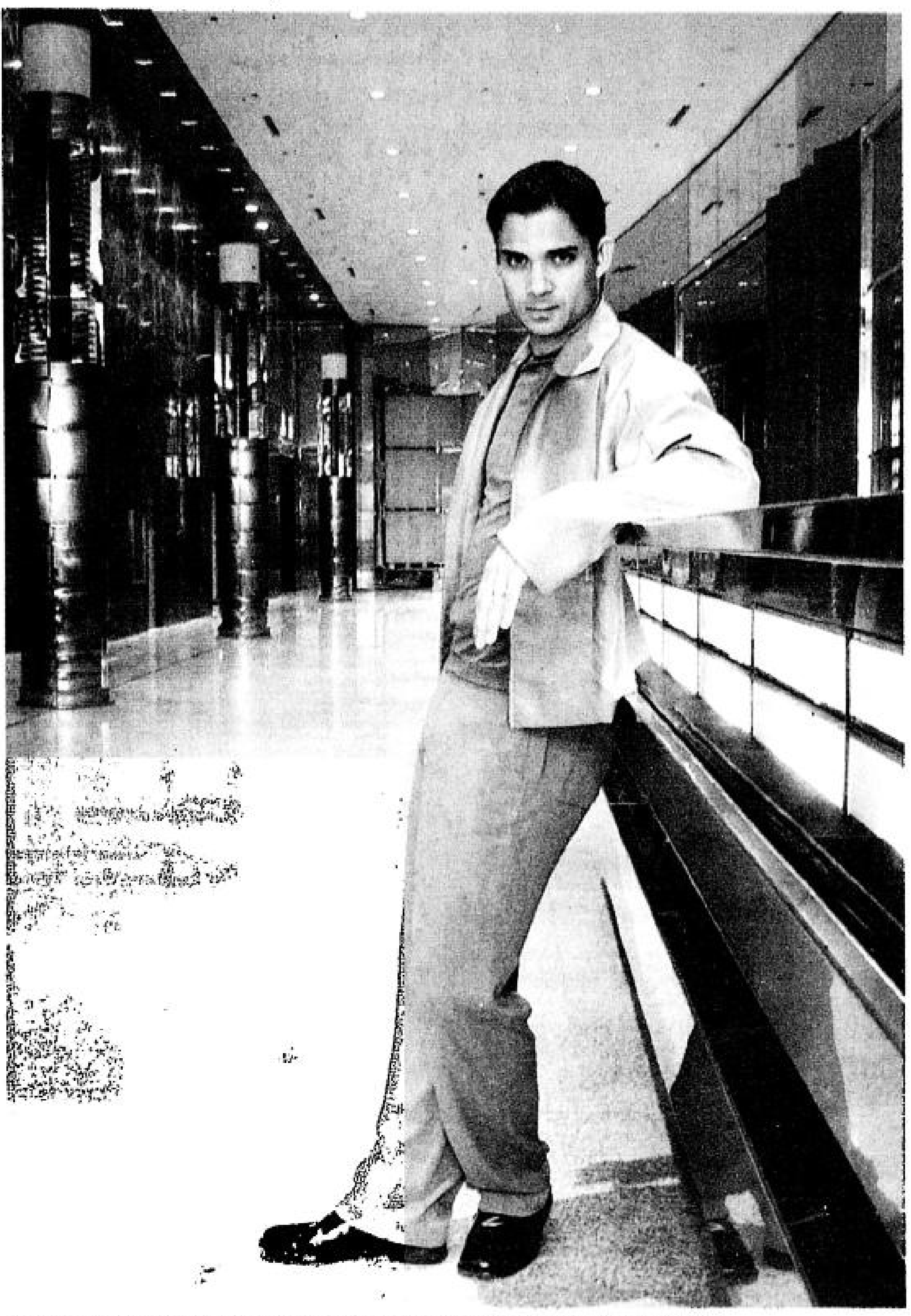

MOSS green shirt matched with a shiny jacket and fitted pants by Randy Ortiz

tened with tears, Bunevacz proposed to her. The punks who watched the scene cheered and cajoled him to kiss her.

Footing the bill

On Dec. 9, the rains stopped so that Bunevacz could have his garden wedding. He followed the Filipino tradition of the groom footing the bill.

But speculations were rife. There was gossip that principal sponsor Mark Jimenez shouldered the costs. On the other hand, there were rumors of debts.

"It only comes from tabloids because I don't pay them to write good things about me," Bunevacz chuckled. Bunevacz observed that people underestimated him. They wondered how a host for a sports show could finance a grand ceremony.

"People think I'm gonna throw a wedding and I'm not gonna pay for my own wedding? It's so stupid. Why am I going to get married if I'm not even ready? Why do people assume I have to save? People don't have the faintest idea about trust funds. I don't want to tell people," he said.

"It's just ridiculous that over and over again I have to prove I paid for the wedding and not Mark Jimenez. Did his people drop a bundle of money at the Shangri-La or at the flower people? I don't understand this type of thinking in people. It's not like I was born in the province. I came from the US. They should think twice before they write stupid things."

He added that in the Philippines, suppliers have to be paid two weeks before the event, especially during the peak month of December, because last-minute cancellations would mean lost opportunities for them.

Bunevacz was also irked by questions about the cost of his wedding.

"Why does it matter? Why do people ask how much it cost? Does it add extra value to your wedding? It's very annoying. Why do you want to know?"

Even the show-biz press could be cruel. Bunevacz cited a show-biz column that had soothsayers predicting that the relationship wouldn't last.

"That is so distasteful! It's so horrible that you would wish someone ill will. Well, you're in show biz, you're open to all kinds of ridiculous comments," he said.

Completeness

With Jessica, he expressed his feeling of completeness and contentment. "The comfort factor is undeniably forever. I never see myself getting tired of our relationship. For myself, after one year, I get bored already. I feel like I've been with her for a month. It's important for me that the relationship won't get stale. It's a chance meeting to find out what the other was all about. It's something that doesn't happen often."

Asked what attracted him to her in the first place, Bunevacz replied, "I saw things that not many people got to see—the kindness, thoughtfulness and protectiveness she gives to her kids and close friends on a day-to-day basis. It's something endearing and lovable about her. I'm such a sucker for thoughtfulness. That's one quality my best friends must have. She displays that quality all the time."

Athlete turned sports broadcaster and actor David Bunevacz emerges larger than life—as a husband and father

Like most women in the honeymoon, Jessica always wants to be affirmed about why he married her. "I tell her, 'Because you like to stay home. You like to make me happy. Because you can't cook, but you're trying'," he said.

A culinary expert, Bunevacz likes to watch cooking and baking shows. While watching the Lifestyle Channel, he pointed out the cakes and asked Jessica if she could bake for him. The next day Jessica bought ingredients and baked her first cake in her entire life—with the help of the nanny, of course.

Dad

Bunevacz became an instant father to Jessica's children, Hayca, 12, and Grant, 6. The kids look up to him as a role model. One of the most touching moments was when the children asked him if they could call him Dad.

As a parent, he's a disciplinarian. He instills the good habits that were imparted by his father, such as no snacks before the TV, eating properly and doing a lot of outdoor activities.

On weekends, he brings his family to the oval track and dangles a P50 bill for every lap. With this positive reinforcement, the children are motivated to run more so they can save their reward. By exposing the children to the outside world, he believes that they become more confident.

Now that he's mature and has found his ideal, Bunevacz is the ideal family man who can make the most of every moment.

LOCATION: RCBC PLAZA
SPECIAL THANKS TO FELICITAS SANTOS

Palm Springs look for Cole Haan store

COLE Haan opens its first freestanding boutique at G/F Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati.

Cole Haan has taken a fresh approach to retailing by designing a store with an intimate residential atmosphere, which can only be described as Palm Springs Modern.

"The design is being adopted globally by all the Cole Haan stores and we are pleased to be among the first to complete the concept. The Manila store design celebrates modern American living by implementing a residential aesthetic, quaint and sophisticated look," explains Edwin Ngo, president of 128 Dream Fountain, the Philippine distributor of the Cole Haan brand.

Palm Springs Modern is a style inspired by desert homes in the '50s and '60s. It features clean lines, warm materials and a strong marriage of interior space with the outdoors. From '20s to '70s, Palm Springs was considered a Hollywood playground. It was preserved by its '70s tailspin and was frozen in time instead of taking on the '80s and '90s minimalist look. The explosion in appreciation for Palm Springs Modern designs in architecture and finishing has caused a worldwide sensation, inspiring Cole Haan to adapt the motif for the new stores.

CREATING an intimate ambiance

A color palette of ivory, celadon green and lacquer red, rich framed teakwood, bronze metal and beautiful mid-century modern antique replicas come together to create a warm, comfortable, living room-style setting.

Other design elements take their inspiration from the products. The circle and square detailing found on a handbag or a shoe can also be seen in the circular windows found within the large teak entry doors and in the circular window displays. Warm lighting add special attention to service complete the full-brand experience.

Each Cole Haan pair blends craftsmanship, design and innovation, which can be found in its City, Country, Studio, Resort and Home collections.

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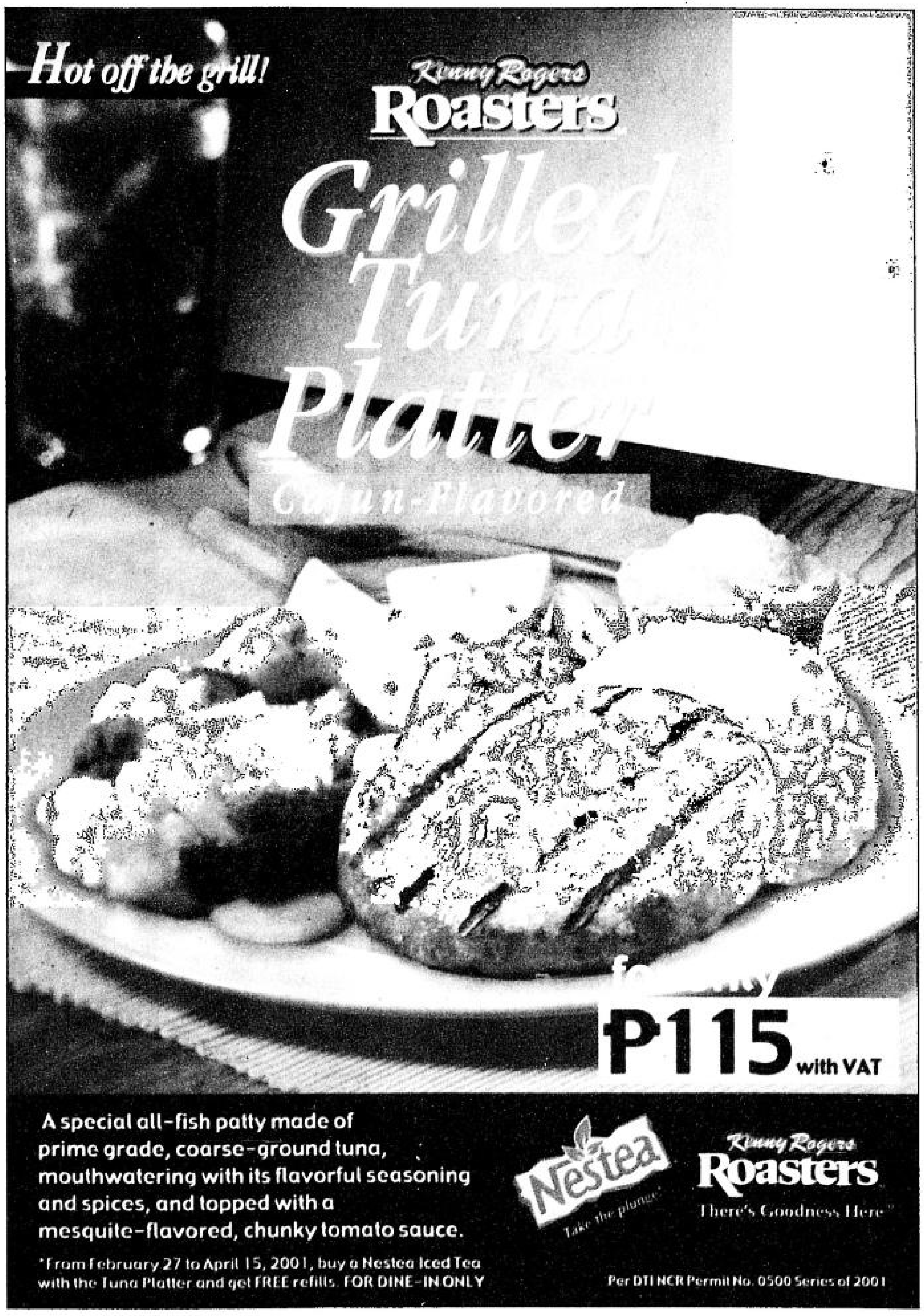

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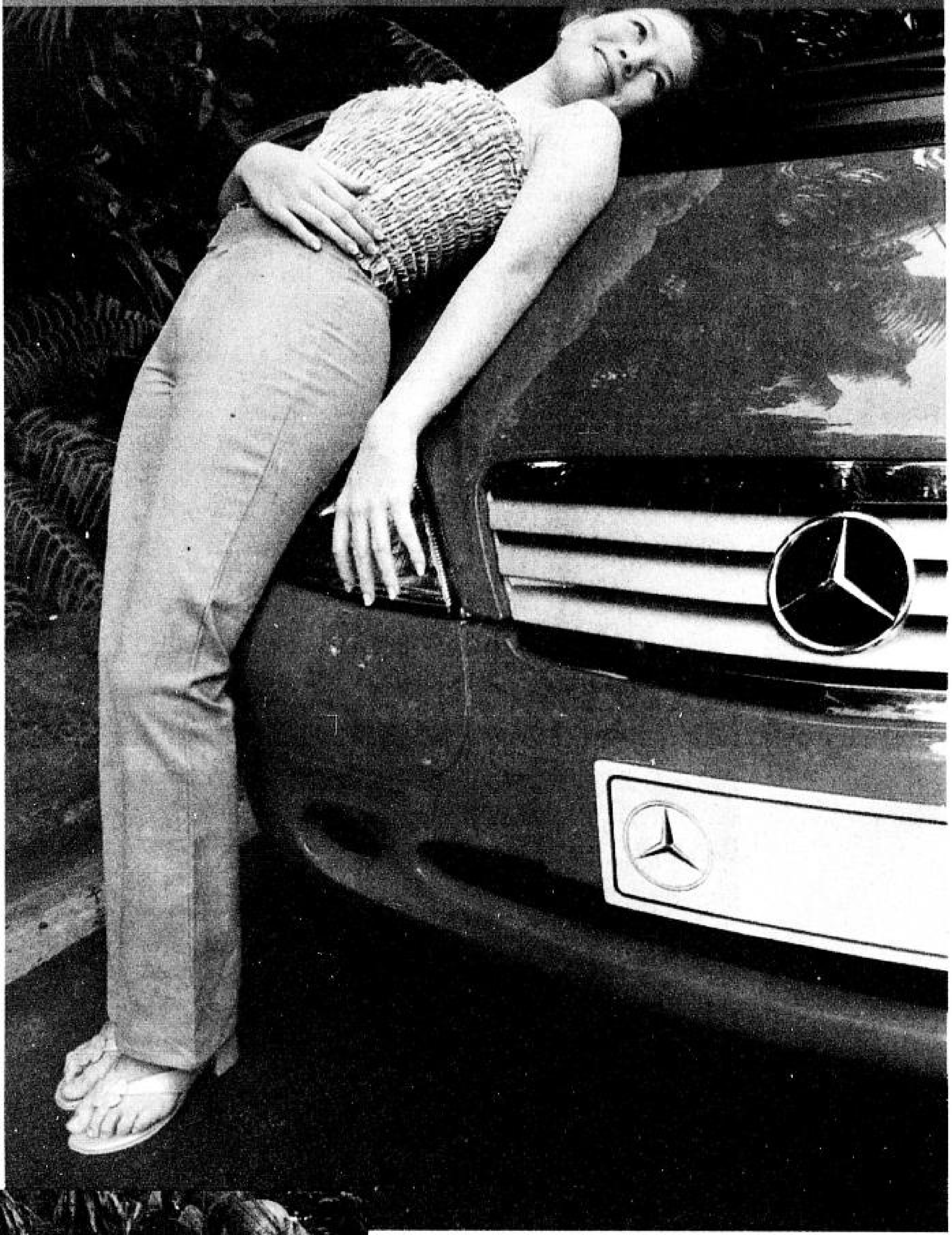
Myths of love

PHOTOS BY
WAHOO GUERRERO

I used to think love was hot. Now I think it is cool as it makes its way calmly, nourishing my spirit.



DALIA wears a peony smoked tube top with lavender slacks.

I used to think love was expression. Now I think it is silence—quietly giving and perhaps understanding later.

OLIVIA is clad in a cotton knit top with floral accents and a skirt with floral embroidery.

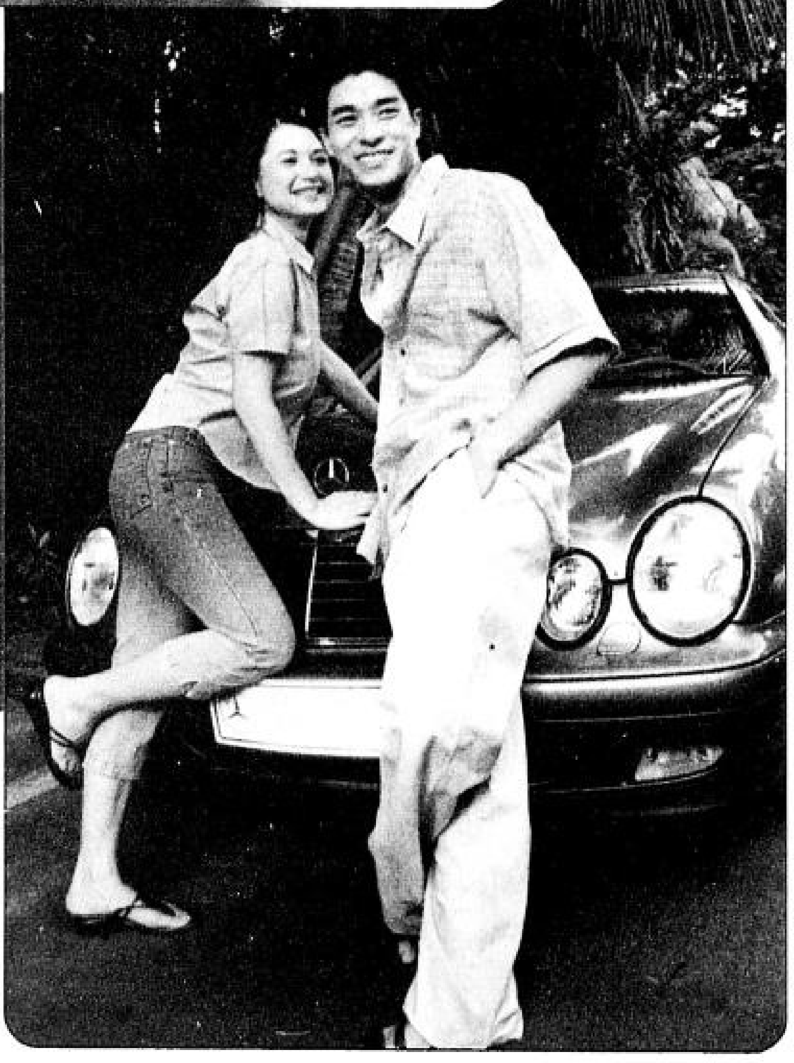
Love is not passion, but placidity; not expression, but communication; not excitement, but ease; not active, but subtle; not touching, but feeling

FASHION BY PENSHOPPE
CARS: AMBER RED MERCEDES BENZ A160 AND CLK200 KOMPRESSOR
SHOES BY MARIE NICOLE
MODELS: DALIA GUERRERO, OLIVIA RICHARD AND TERRENCE KOA OF CAL CARRIE
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY TITO DE LA FUENTE
MAKEUP BY YSL
SPECIAL THANKS TO CATS MOTOR INC.

I used to think love was excitement. Now I think it is soothing, making someone strong and filling the gaps.

TERENCE wears a raglan shirt in peony and violet with khaki shorts. Olivia wears a light blue off-shoulder smocked top with dip-dyed denim capris.

I used to think love was touching. Now I think it is standing at a slight distance, watching with care that you know when to come in and when to leave.



I used to think love was active. Now I think it is subtle. It is carrying a gift with no nametag. It's just offering without expecting anything in return.

OLIVIA wears a sky blue smoked top and denim capri pants. Terence wears a checkered sky blue polo short with stonewashed slacks.

Banned beef . . .

(From page G8)

Letter for Nestle

JOCELYN T. Duran, head of consumer services, Nestle Philippines Inc., wrote to us regarding the complaint of journalist Mozart Pastrano. She wrote:

"We would like to clarify our consumer feedback procedure. We wish to assure you that it is not our practice to ask consumers to write a formal letter first before we act on a complaint. Here's our standard operating procedure whenever a complaint is received:

"1. We send a representative to pick up the complaint sample or product in question within 24-48 hours. Our representative brings product replacement for the sample being picked up and a letter acknowledging the complaint received.

"2. The sample is sent for evaluation to the quality assurance laboratory of the factory concerned.

"3. The results are then furnished to the complainant as soon as possible.

"Mr. Mozart Pastrano's complaint was handled according to this procedure."

We hope Ms Duran will alert her assistants about the SOP for consumer complaints. I was personally informed by a staff member that a complainant should first file a formal letter of complaint.

We thank Ms Duran for the clarification.

Send consumer complaints and comments to mgiron@csi.com.ph

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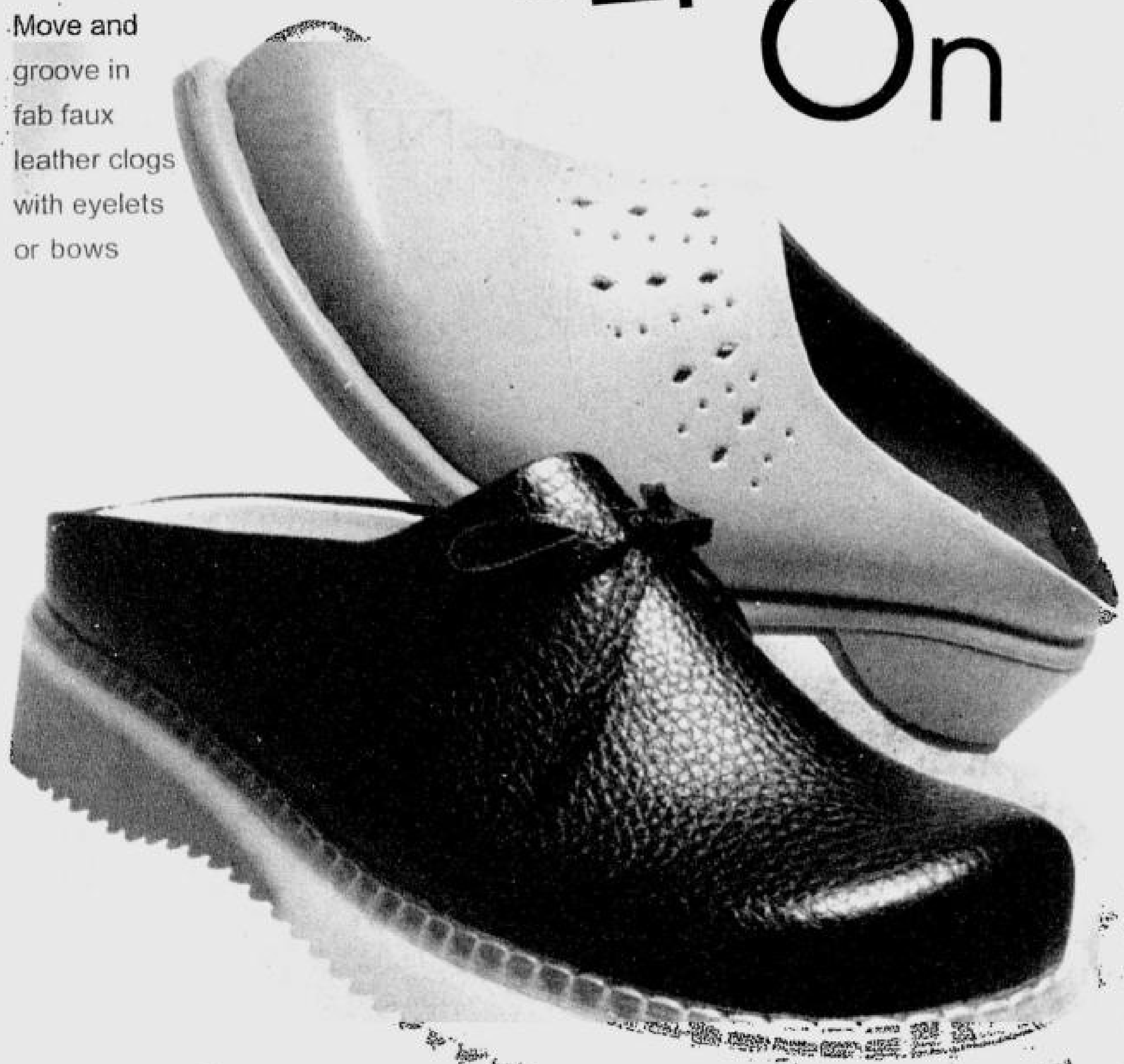

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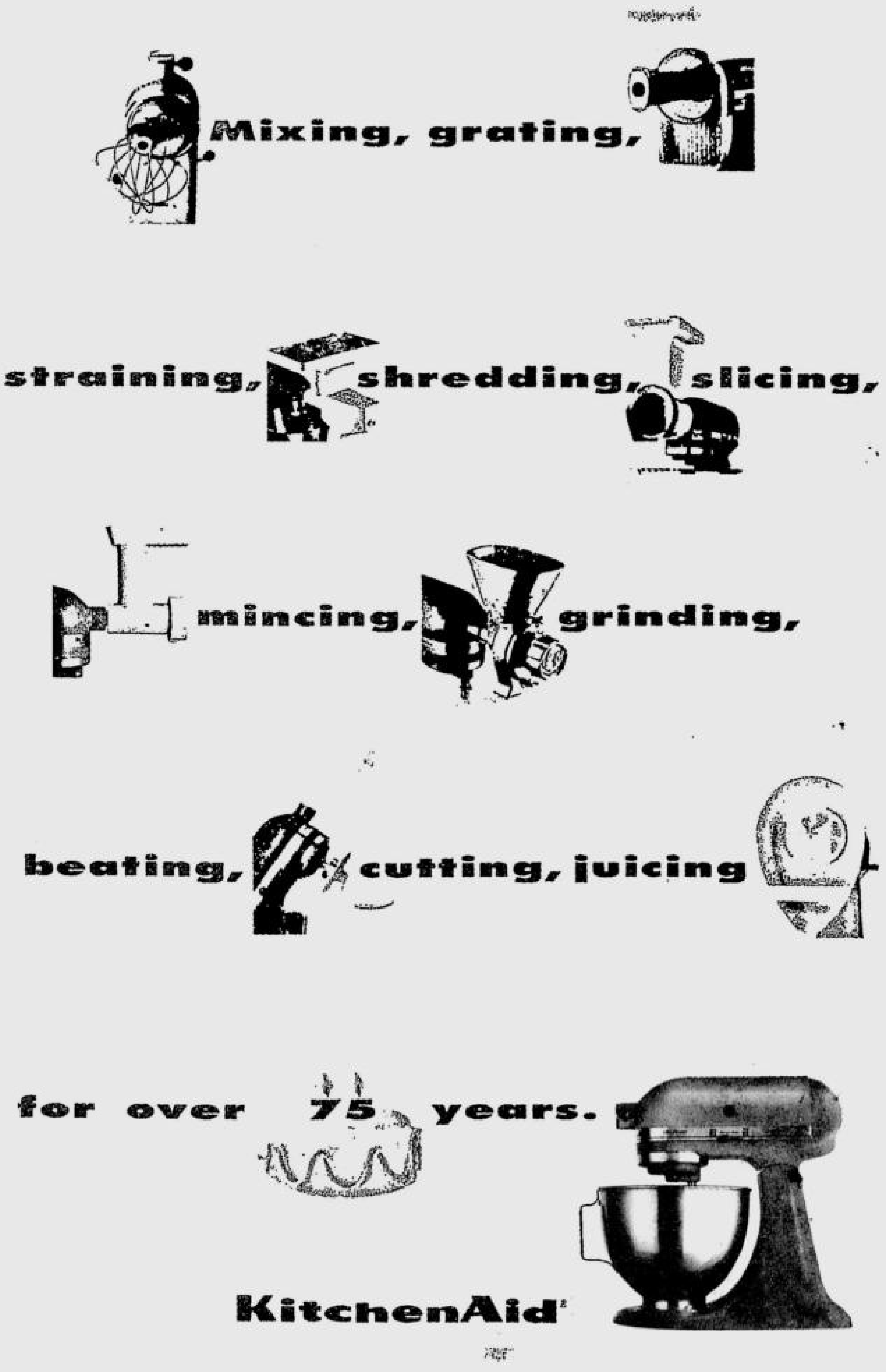

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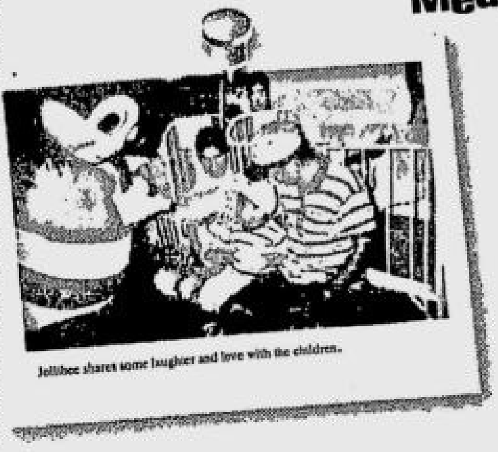
Jollibee Journal

Joy, The Best Medicine!



Jollibee shares some laughter and love with the children.

Chickenjoy, that is!

Jollibee has once again spread cheerful smiles to kids last February. This time, Jollibee did it at the Amang Rodriguez Hospital in Marikina and the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Manila. Our lovable mascot, together with the Jollibee Kids Workshop Club Officers, gave kids in the Pediatric Wards their favorite langhap-sarap food and other goodies. The kids were so happy and animated, they did not want Jollibee to leave!

Jollibee wishes these kids immediate recovery, and promises them that in sickness and in health, Jollibee will always be there!

Caring Beyond The Counter

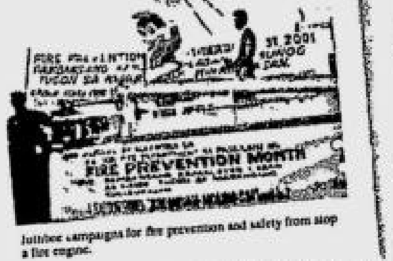
Mayor Alvin B Garcia, Tommy Y. King, Managing Director, Alan G. Alfon, Jollibee Visayas Network Dev't Mgr .Carmela Ylaya, Jollibee Sto Niño OIC

Jollibee Foods Corporation was recently honored by the Cebu City Government for its outstanding community contribution and involvement.

Jollibee received the Mayor's Special Award for Community Service at the prestigious Awards and Recognition Ceremony at the Cebu City Waterfront Hotel, capping the 64th Charter Day Celebration. City Mayor Alvin Garcia gave the award, recognizing Jollibee's public service works, which include Little Tikes Playland granted to the Parks and Playground Commission, the adoption of the Fuente Osmeña Park and Plaza Independencia, and the donation of city trash bins.

The honor should be an inspiration for Jollibee to continue in its commitment to community service – behind and beyond the counter.

The Burning Battle of Jollibee Bacoor



Jollibee campaigns for fire prevention and safety from atop a fire engine.

The Jollibee stores of Bacoor once more joined the local Fire Department in the battle for public safety during this year's Fire Prevention Month.

Jollibee Kalinisan, Molino, and SM Bacoor Levels 1 and 2 eagerly promoted the campaign, with the theme "Pambansang Kamalayan Laban sa Sunog, Tugon sa Magandang Kinabukasan," to educate the community on fire prevention and safety.

Chief of Bacoor Fire Marshall SFO2 Leonardo R. Lopez gave an educational talk. Aside from providing promotional streamers, Jollibee also brought excitement by campaigning from atop a bright-red fire engine at the community motorcade.

The Jollibee stores of Bacoor will always be an ally against public danger, for public awareness, safety and care. Battle onwards, Bacoor!

Bongga sa Panagbenga!

Jollibee Baguio crew in full bloom at the floral parade.

Jollibee celebrates flower power!

At this year's Panagbenga Flower Festival in Baguio, hundreds of thousands of lovely flowers reveled with Jollibee's entourage of fabulous floral floats and dancers. Tourists and visitors were dazzled by the colorful spectacle and pageantry Jollibee had presented in this proud Pinoy parade. Members of the Superkids Club were also wowed by kiddie programs and workshops conducted for them by the cheerful Jollibee Baguio crew.

Now Jollibee can hardly wait for next year's flower festival!

For feedback, comments,
suggestions, please write to:
Jollibee Journal
c/o the Marketing Division, Jollibee Center
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City, Philippines
journal@jollibee.com.ph

Jollibee®

Banned beef still being sold

WHY are some stores still selling meat products from Europe despite the temporary ban supposedly issued last December to protect consumers against the risks of mad cow infection raging in Europe?

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

In case these stores don't know it, the Department of Health issued on March 8 guidelines for the implementation of the ban. The title of DOH-Bureau of Food and Drugs Circular No 1 is very clear: "Guidelines on the temporary ban on the importation of processed meat products from cattle, sheep and goat, and other food ingredients containing substances derived from these animals."

These items are canned meat products containing meat/offal such as frankfurters, liver paste, pate, goulash, soups and broth; other products that may or may not be stable at ambient conditions like sausages and pasta stuffed with meat from specified animals; and food ingredients such as beef flavors, animal protein preparations or protein concentrates.

DOH-BFAD Circular No. 2 issued to supermarkets, duty-free shops and other retail outlets listed the following products: corned beef, liver paste, luncheon meat, chopped ham, Danish ham, lamb curry, pasta with meat and other products simply identified as canned meat.

For more details about the circulars, call the press information office of the Department of Trade and Industry at 895-8133 or the BFAD information unit at 842-5606. You may as well ask for copies of the two circulars which have a listing of the countries of origin and the number codes of various products on alert.

We thank Butch Pajarillo of the DTI press office and Fely Silva of the BFAD Bureau Information Unit for giving us all these information.

Timely reminder

No less than trade director Pajarillo proved that some stores are still selling these temporarily banned beef items. Last Sunday, he made the rounds of groceries in Parañaque where he actually bought the following canned items: Plumrose corned beef, P52.80; Hereford corned beef, P58.75, Best Choice Mini mart, and Hereford corned beef, P110.

Pajarillo said that he already called the attention of a store supervisor when he first saw the banned items on the shelf a week earlier. "I requested the supervisor to remove the products from the shelves and have them returned to the suppliers. A week later, I saw the same brand even stocked with more units. The store supervisor reasoned out that management indeed received warning about the European-sourced products, but that their suppliers stated the displayed products did not belong to the dates covered by the ban."

There you have it, folks, traders will always find loopholes and gray areas in the law to get away with their intentions. Unless the DTI or DOH can specify the exact dates of manufacture or shipment of banned products, traders won't pull them out of their shelves.

And consumers be damned.

BANNED/ p.G7

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0562 Series of 2001

Their own artistic space

By Manny A. Miñana

THE AUTHOR

ARTISTS are a rarefied group of individuals, the creators of some of the most sublime images and visual ideas. From their core, the ordinary becomes extraordinary, the blasé, unconventional, the dull, iridescent. Their honesty, essence and singular points of views are a rich palette of life's individuality, originality and creative integrity. In this space, style is metamorphosed and made memorable for art lovers like you and me.

It is with much pleasure that I have invited artist friends to join us. They share their states of mind on what could seem to be an uninspired mind game: With a P5,000 budget, what would you do with a 45-sq m space to live in? Here are some inspired concepts from some of our country's most luminous painters and sculptors.

THEIR/ p.H2

Some of the country's top artists explore sublime spatial possibilities on a paltry budget of P5,000

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Jolina Magdangal ...Live!

Get ready for a party when teen sensation Jolina Magdangal tours the Robinsons Malls to promote her latest album, Red Alert.

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"Nakaka-inggit naman ang talent mo!"
"Kaya naman lab kita eh!"
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AII-065, Series of 2001

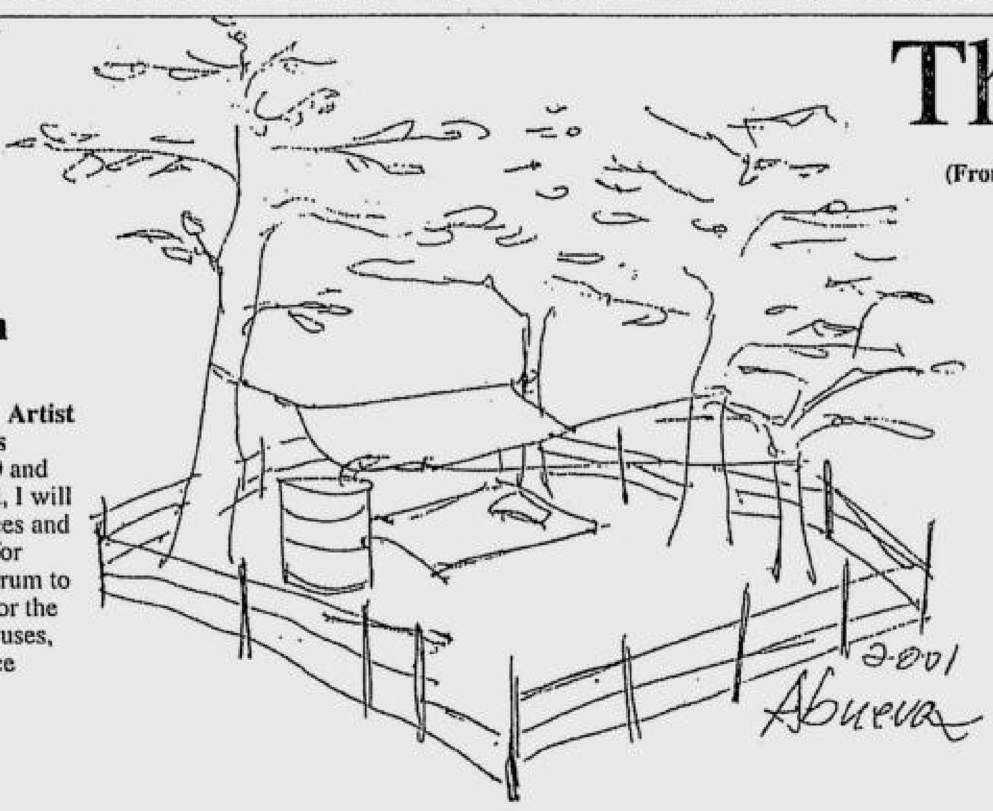
Their own artistic space

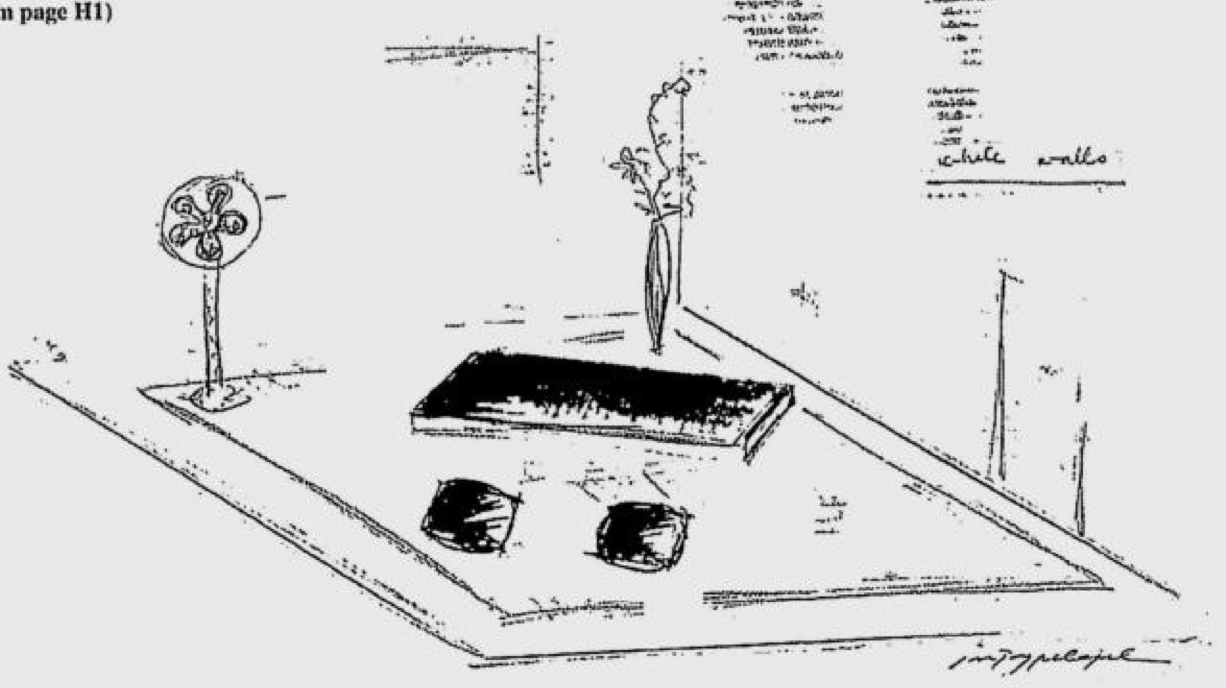
(From page H1)

Napoleon Abueva,

1976 National Artist for Visual Arts

With P5,000 and 45 sq m of land, I will plant *talisay* trees and have a canvas for shelter with a drum to contain water for the trees and other uses, and have a fence around.





Impy Pilapil

Given a 45-sq m room, I would paint the walls white and the ceiling lilac. I would leave the floor as is—no matter what it may be, plain concrete or wood—and clean it thoroughly with Clorox. Then I would put a *banig* that would serve as area carpet. The furnishing would consist only of one black leatherette-upholstered cushion the size of a single bed, and two pillows, probably in mint green color—all of which will be strategically laid out on the floor. The "art piece" would be the electric fan, which I would paint with leftover paint of lilac and white and collage with multicolored gallery invitation cards. The only other accent in the room will be fresh flowers in a vase to bring in some aura of nature that always refreshes the soul.

Expenses:

Paint (white and lilac)	P1,500
3" thick leatherette-upholstered cushion	P600
2 pillows	P300
Banig	P350
Electric fan	P1,700
Fresh flowers and vase	P500

Anita Magsaysay-Ho

I would like to live with trees around. My house would be a studio and this is where I'd live. It would have a kitchenette, with a sliding door, a bed put against the wall. But I would look at the trees and the ocean. It would be a small place, but in a good environment, maybe somewhere in Subic. I would like to look at the trees and, of course, face the North Light.

Jonathan Olazo

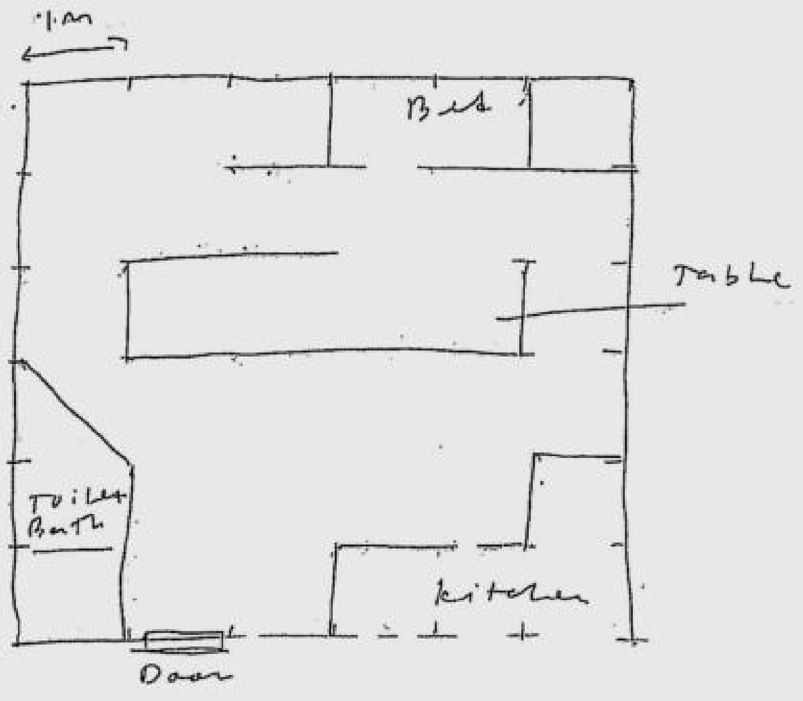
Building something from zero on a P5,000 budget seems almost impossible. I'll work on the idea of "furnishing" a 45-sq m space, toilet-and-bath and kitchen included.

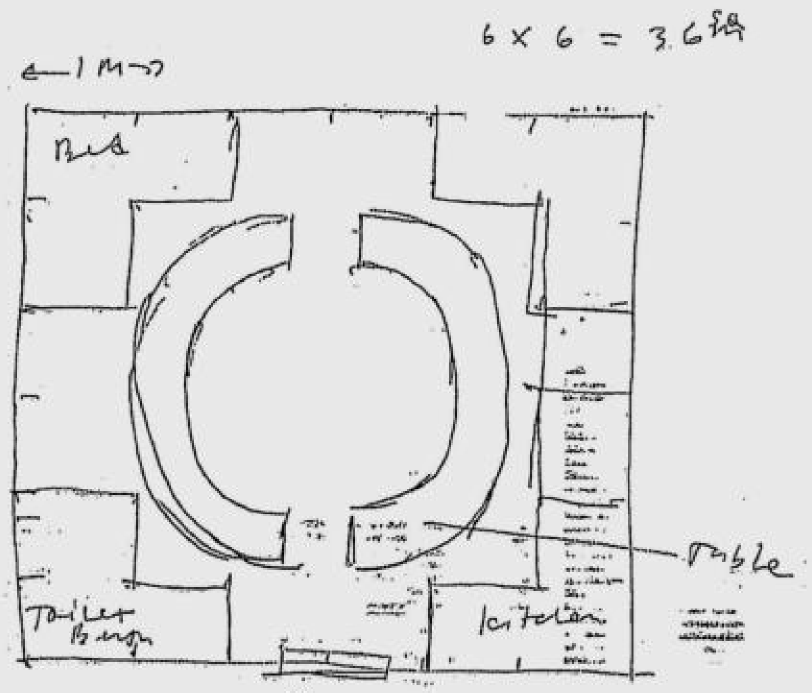
An attempt at theorizing: A person will grow in a given space; in the end the space grows with the person.

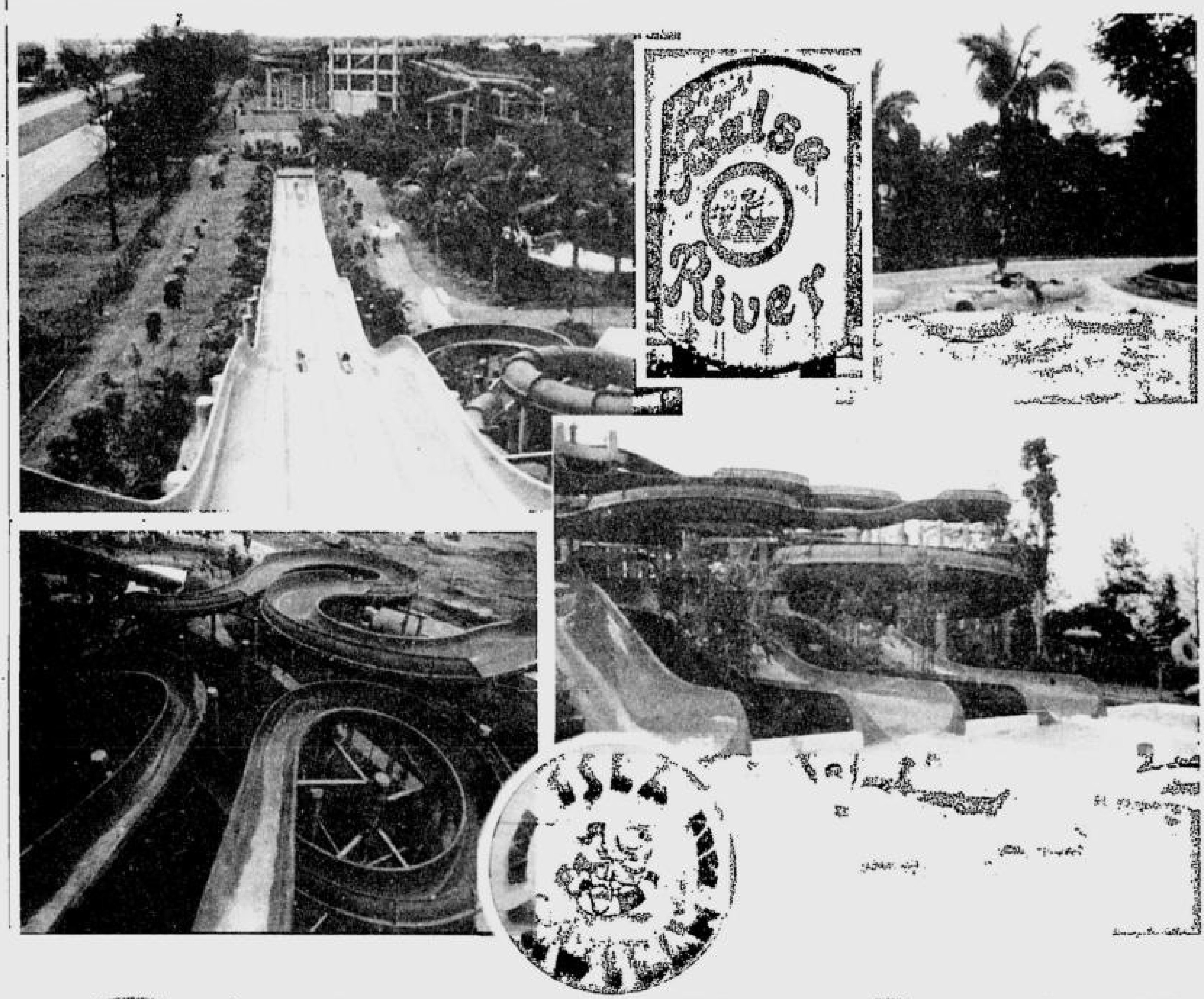
Reading or looking at any reading material is essential in my work. I also find myself working while listening to CDs, or listening to CDs while working. I immensely value "moments" of solitude, meditative while walking, prayerfully listening while sitting down. I treasure meaningful conversation with great friends, colleagues. I easily get homesick. Easily miss Mom and Dad, Ate and Jill (two sisters). Also think greatest date is to cook for a girlfriend in my own space.

With these in mind, among other unmentioned interests, I would invest in a table.

First option would be to look for a long wooden table, could be a battered secondhand. It will be situated in the middle of the room. Second option would be to have one custom-made, in a circular shape, hollow inside. The table should be big enough that it would subtly dominate the room. All activities would emanate from there. Its big dimensions would also allow it to double as storage space.



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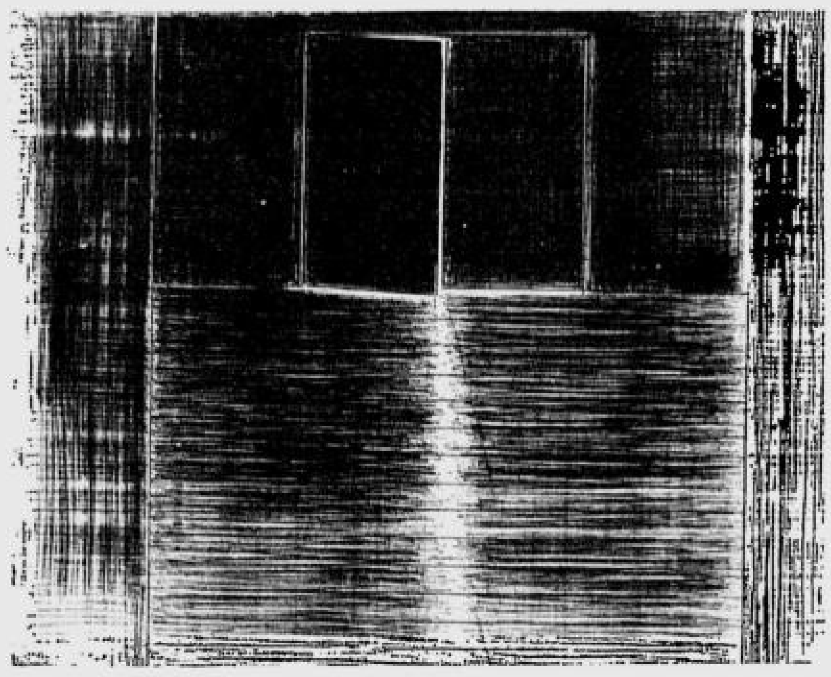
Their own artistic space

(From page H2)



Lao Lianben

I simply cannot imagine decorating a room with only P5,000. Then maybe let's try to create something with less than the given budget.

I will paint the whole room with black enamel paint. It has to be three coatings—the whole room has to be very shiny, almost like black liquid. Then, open the door to about 3 inches, in order to let the light from the hallway sneak in to form a "light line" on the liquid floor. The whole environment will appear to be meditative, empty and powerful.

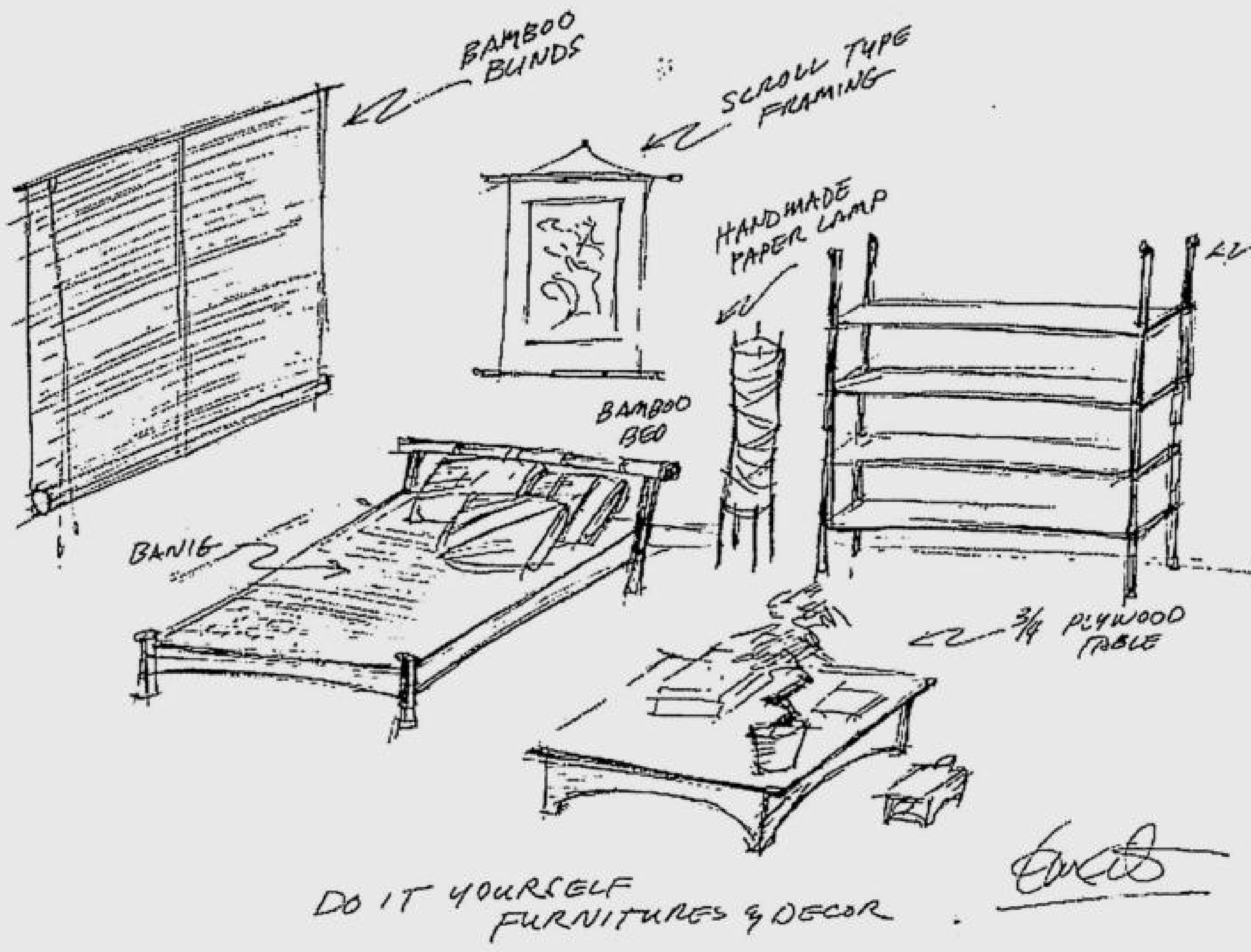
I will sit at the far corner of the room to meditate a few minutes. Then I will congratulate myself for pocketing the remaining P4,500.

P.S. Does it make sense?

Arturo Luz

1998 National Artist for Visual Arts

Paint everything white, including all walls, ceiling, doors, windows, furniture and furnishings. If there is money left, spend it all on indoor plants. The pots, of course, must be painted white.



Bencab

A taste of European country lifestyle

AT THE BARNYARD Lifestyle store, European country rustic is the theme. The materials used are imported pinewood, wrought-iron accents and original Italian tiles. Products range from wrought-iron accessories to beautiful living, dining and bedroom pieces. They also carry a wide variety of items such as terracotta pots, wicker products and even scented candles. Not only unique pieces of rustic furniture are incorporated but complete European country lifestyle.

The beauty of the southern European region, which includes the Mediterranean, inspired the store: its culture, architecture, design, mood and ambiance. Casual elegance is the way of life in this region, without clearly defining frontiers that reflect a truly Mediterranean abundance and passion for life.

The concept depicts interiors that cater to all walks of life. The kinds of home they cater to are from that of a duchess, all the way to a country farmer. They furnish even a gaily painted weekend cottage, a classic country home and a colorful gypsy caravan, all the way to minimalistic modernized monastery.

At The Barnyard, quality is just as important as the theme. The designs are traditional, solid and timeless.

THE RUSTIC look

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a. MONTHLY DRAW	PAYMENT PERIOD	PRIZES	NO. OF WINNERS DEPOSITOR	CASHIER
April 20, 2001	March 15 - April 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
May 25, 2001	April 15 - May 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
June 22, 2001	May 15 - June 14: 2001	₱2,000	30	30
July 20, 2001	June 15 - July 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
August 24, 2001	July 15 - August 15,2001	₱2,000	30	30
b. GRAND DRAW August 24, 2001	March 15 - August15, 2001	₱10,000	15	15

c. VENUE: Metrobank Head Office, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Time: 3:00 pm

4. Thirty (30) winning numbers will be drawn in the monthly raffle and fifteen (15) will be drawn in the Grand Draw.
5. Each winning number will have a corresponding winning cashier who will win the same prize as the depositor's.
6. Cash prizes will be credited to the depositor's account; winning cashiers will be issued manager's checks.
7. A participant can win only once in each draw.
8. Winning and non-winning raffle numbers are disqualified for the succeeding monthly draws but will be included in the Grand Draw.
9. Winning depositors can join again in the succeeding monthly draws (including the Grand Draw).
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail.
11. The winning cashier must present the notice and any valid ID within 60 days from the receipt of the registered notice. The prize can be claimed at:

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0097, Series of 2001

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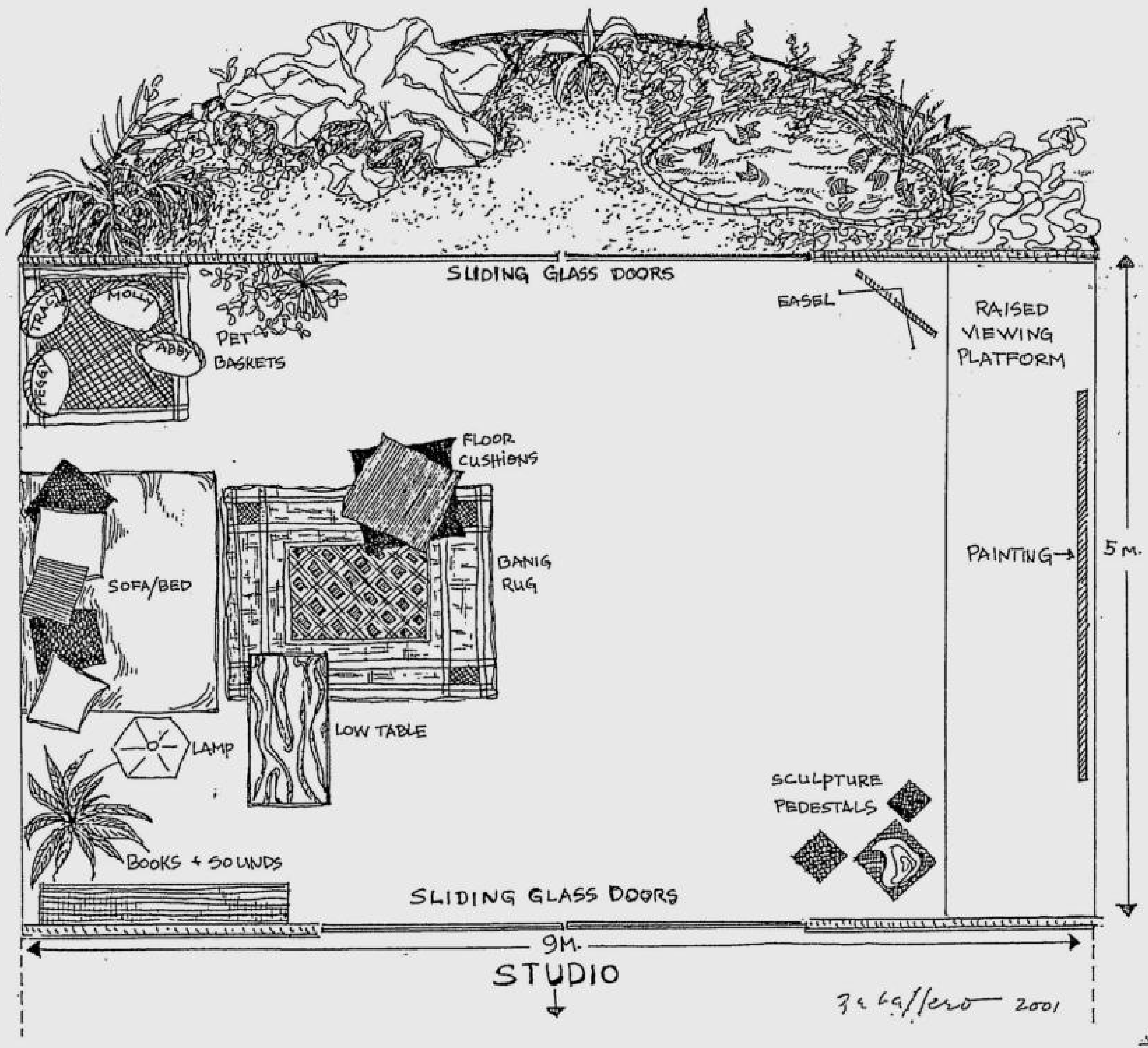
Their own artistic space

(From page H3)



Phyllis Zaballero

Not long after I began brooding over the quandary of having this wonderfully big space but laughably little money to spend on it, I decided that a few self-serving assumptions had to be made at the start if I were to keep my sanity.

First, the make-believe 45 sq m had to be sandwiched between an imaginary painting studio and a mythical garden. Second, the space must have been finished, meaning the wooden floor has been sanded, bleached and sealed, and two sliding glass doors installed. Third, all ceiling light fixtures had been attached, and fourth, walls and ceiling had to have been painted pure white. Fair enough? Or is this cheating?

Anyway, at this point fairness didn't matter much to me because I had already begun to day-dream. And the dream gradually became something of a runaway fantasy. Or maybe hallucination is a better word. I kept visualizing this lovely unreal space as actually existing in a painfully real Manila. This was probably because Manila is where most of the time, squalor notwithstanding, I still work at making an escapist sort of unreal art.

The consequence of all this fanciful thinking was the idea of an ideal retreat for rest, reflection and regeneration for those times when city life becomes either exhausting or frustrating, or both. But it also serves a practical purpose as an adjunct to the studio. The entire room length of 9 m is given over to providing the perspective distance for a "viewing" wall and platform. This is where a painting, whether finished or in progress, can be hung, isolated from the distraction of other paintings and the inevitable mess of a working studio. In this neutral setting the artist can better judge both strong and weak points of an artwork while it is still within her control in the studio. In this setting even painful esthetic decisions can be made in relatively painless physical comfort.

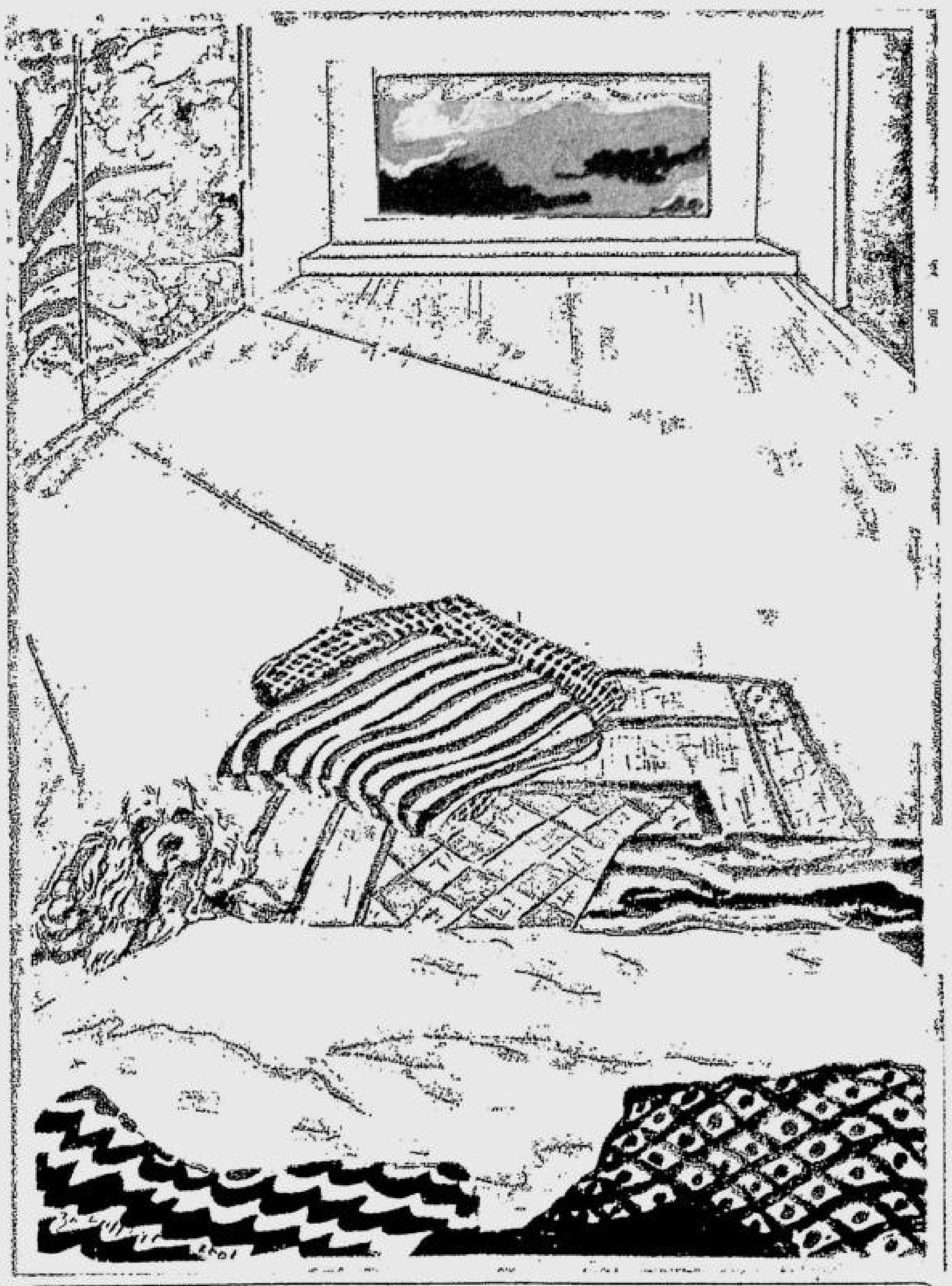
The wishful part comes in when I fictively surround the artist with her favorite therapeutic things: lots of plants in a pocket garden, a goldfish pond with lily pads and all her dogs, three cocker spaniels and a dachshund. Their sleeping baskets are in a special corner. Of course, a wall is set aside for books and music.

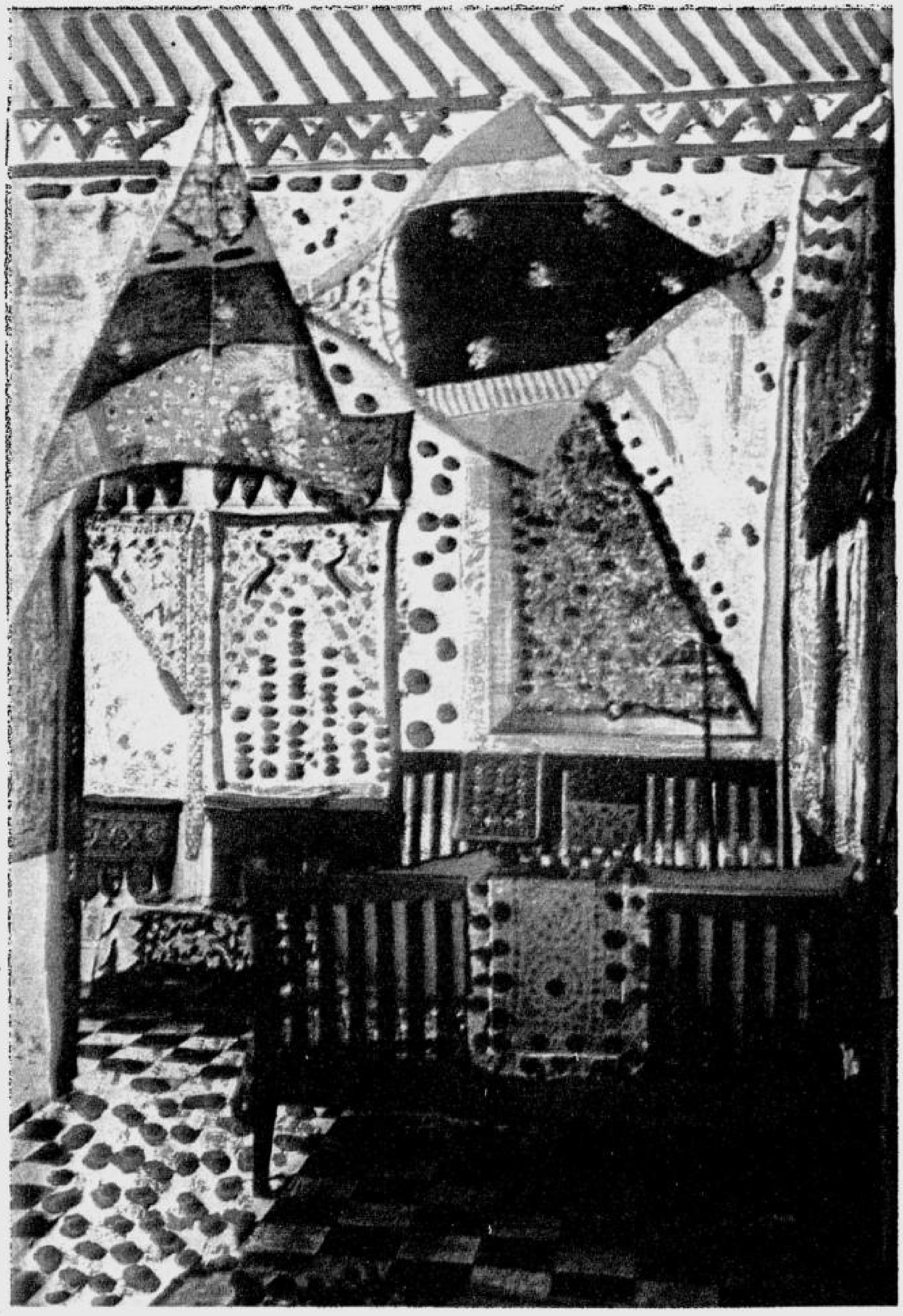
The expenses could be:

2 plywood platforms, wood and construction	P1,900
1 Urethane foam mattress, 60x74x4", *katsa*-covered	P2,000
6.75 yards of local fabric for 7 pillows	P450
1 secondhand floor lamp	P200
1 *banig* mat from Iloilo	P400
TOTAL	P4,950

As for objects *gratis et amore*, indoor plants were solicited from gardener friends and several things were brought in from the studio beyond: sculpture and pedestals, an easel, paintings and a spare bookcase. A low table was found in storage and its scarred wood surface refined with furniture polish and elbow grease. The stuffing from a number of outdated and faded throw pillows were recycled to fill the new ones. Lastly, all the pet paraphernalia were brought from the artist's home as well as a simple sound system.

I had a P50 left over so I imagined that I went out and bought a lavender-scented candle to set just the right mood.

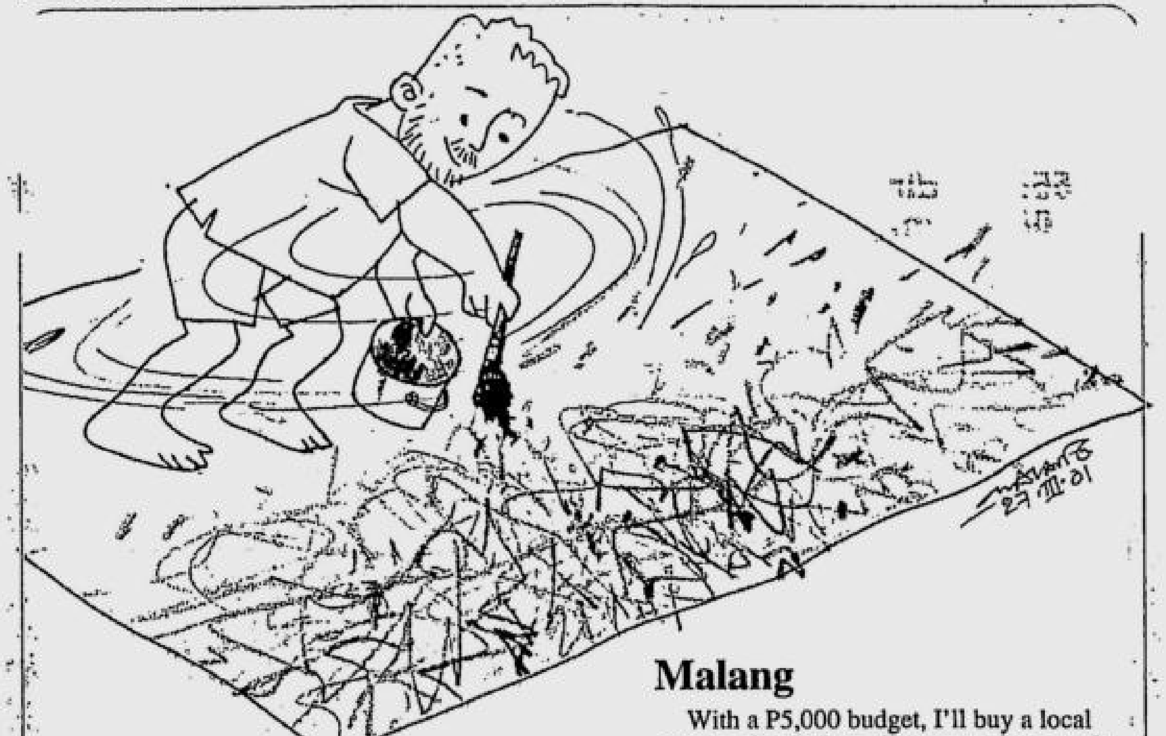




Pacita B. Abad

I'll make my kites in *retazos* and bamboo, buy some paints, install all the kites in the room and fill the gaps with bright colors—acrylic or home paint.

I'll have a boom box in a corner and play all my Van Morrison records.



Malang

With a P5,000 budget, I'll buy a local canvas, size 9x5, to sleep on and *magwala* à la Jackson Pollock. *May sukli ka pang* McDo!

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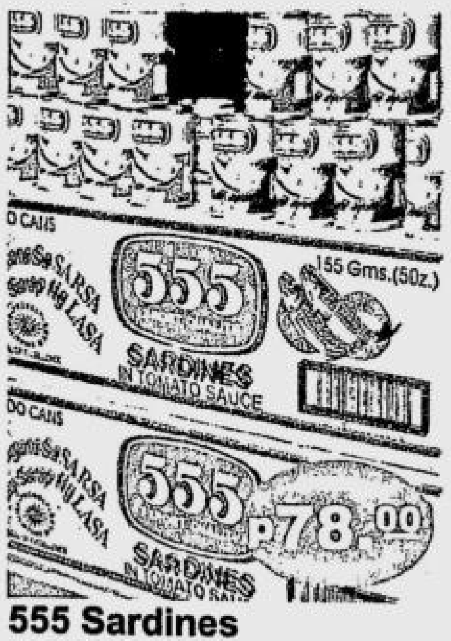

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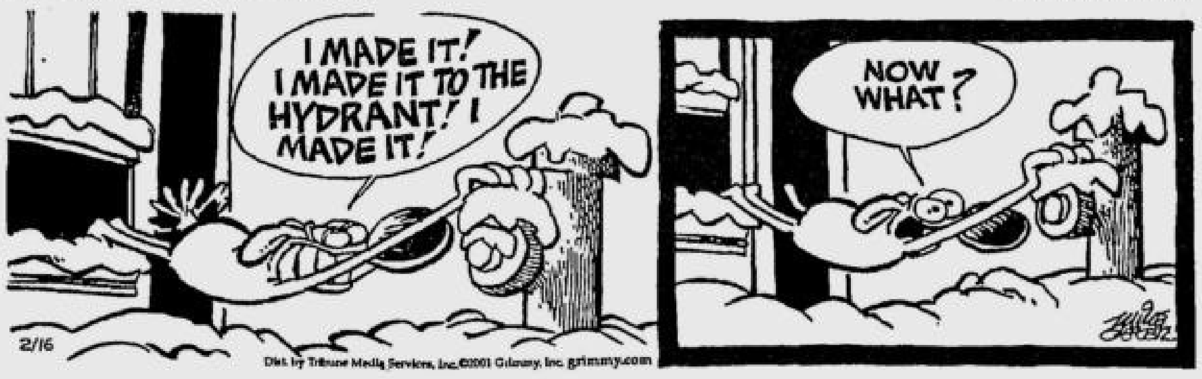
I MADE IT! I MADE IT TO THE HYDRANT! I MADE IT!
NOW WHAT?
2/16
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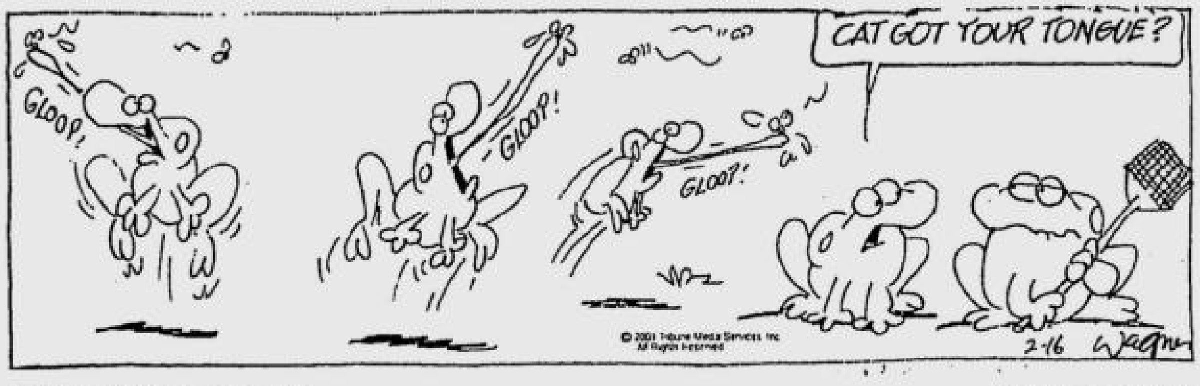
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


GLOOP!
GLOOP!
GLOOP!
CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
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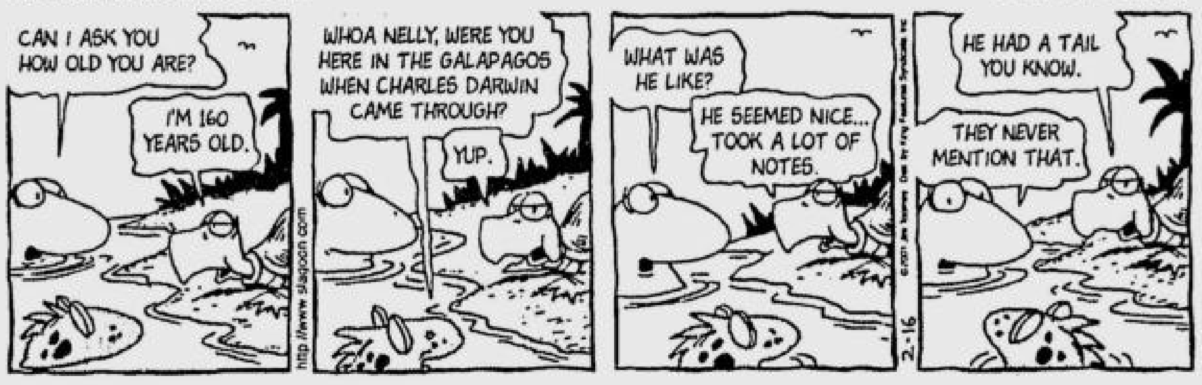
2-16 Wagner

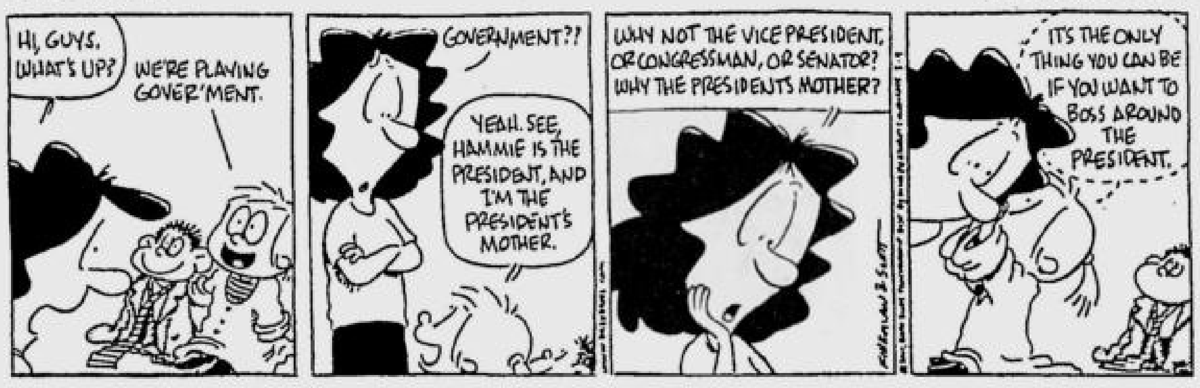
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


CAN I ASK YOU HOW OLD YOU ARE?
I'M 160 YEARS OLD.
WHOA NELLY, WERE YOU HERE IN THE GALAPAGOS WHEN CHARLES DARWIN CAME THROUGH?
YUP.
WHAT WAS HE LIKE?
HE SEEMED NICE... TOOK A LOT OF NOTES.
HE HAD A TAIL YOU KNOW.
THEY NEVER MENTION THAT.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-16

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI, GUYS. WHAT'S UP?
WE'RE PLAYING GOVER'MENT.
GOVERNMENT?!
YEAH. SEE, HAMMIE IS THE PRESIDENT, AND I'M THE PRESIDENT'S MOTHER.
WHY NOT THE VICE PRESIDENT, OR CONGRESSMAN, OR SENATOR? WHY THE PRESIDENT'S MOTHER?
IT'S THE ONLY THING YOU CAN BE IF YOU WANT TO BOSS AROUND THE PRESIDENT.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

TCELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eric Clapton, Paul Reiser, Warren Beatty, Celine Dion, Ian Ziering
Happy Birthday: Don't hesitate to ask for help this year. You will get the support you need. Put your ideas on the table and be prepared to work long hours. Don't lose sight of your goals and stay away from people who just want to waste your time. Be precise and honest, and you will reach your desired destination. Your numbers: 18, 23, 24, 31, 36, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get too attached to one of your colleagues. One-sided attractions will be devastating. Your reputation as well as your job may be at stake. Keep your thoughts to yourself and avoid gossip.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Join forces and press employers to make changes that will improve your working conditions. Take some time to re-evaluate your motives. Romantic opportunities will come when least expected.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your emotions are on a roller-coaster ride. You know you need a change, but you just aren't sure where to start. Try a new hairdo or a complete new look.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get ready to make some personal alterations. Be secretive about your intentions regarding work. Take time to visit relatives who haven't been feeling up to par.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your best foot forward. You can charm others with your self-confident attitude. Take care of all those small important details or ensure that someone else will. You're great at delegating work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): One-sided infatuations are evident. Avoid getting involved with partners who are already committed to someone else. Deception at social functions may cause confusion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Romantic encounters are fun, but may not be lasting. Don't jump to conclusions or make demands. You may not be evaluating the situation properly. If you overreact, all will be lost.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your health may suffer if you've been neglecting yourself. Don't let minor ailments turn into major problems. Your reluctance to take a break will only make matters worse.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won't want to listen to anyone. You're following your own dreams, and nothing else matters. Be prepared to handle the consequences if you've upset someone along the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll get all the help you need; however, be sure you choose the right people for the jobs at hand. There is little room for error at this point. Your job could be on the line.

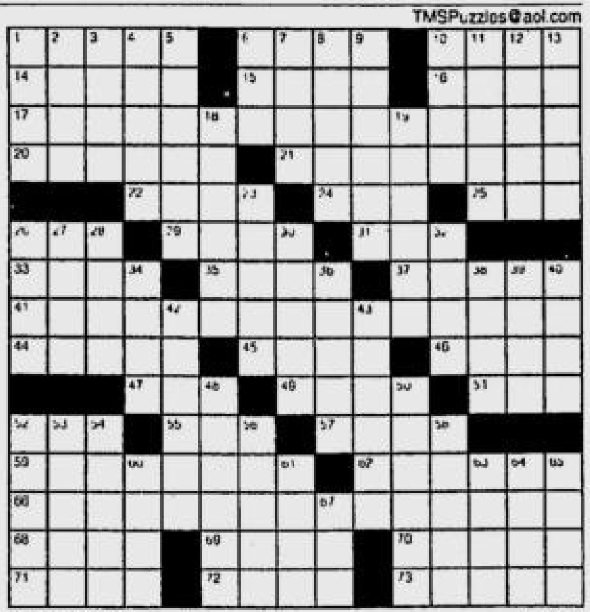
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time you started getting into shape instead of just talking about it. Join a program geared toward exercise and a smart diet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A misunderstanding may cause problems with a business or emotional partner. Address the issues directly and sincerely. Make changes if necessary. The most important goal is to keep the peace.

Birthday Baby: Bright, energetic and bold. You are inquisitive, outgoing and into everything. You will be hard to keep up with and sensitive if you don't get your way. You are fun-loving, free-spirited and eager to play.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



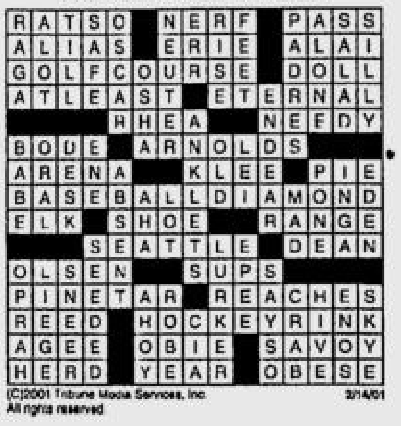
By Bill Swain
New Port Richey, FL

2/14/01

ACROSS
1 '50s candidate Stevenson
6 Men only
10 Diligent devotion
14 Brings up
15 Killer whale
16 "Othello" villain
17 Stephen King's change of heart?
20 Went underground
21 Tiny bit
22 Gather in
24 Director Howard
25 According to
26 Health club
29 Gin flavor
31 Cribbage piece
33 Org. for seniors
35 Tiny bit
37 Type of setter
41 Don Johnson's change of heart?
44 Cut a slit
45 Flowerpot spot
46 Blemish
47 Eye, in poems
49 Appear to be
51 Goddess of folly
52 __ Paulo, Brazil
55 Intense anger
57 Twenty quires
59 The whole time
62 Magician's word
66 Nathanael West's change of heart?
68 Horn signal
69 "Scarface" star Paul
70 Paradigm
71 Sothern and Sheridan
72 Setting
73 "The Jetsons" dog

DOWN
1 Monumental entrance
2 Sub shoppe
3 Praise
4 Bower
5 Debate topics
6 Male offspring
7 Brit's streetcar
8 Broadway figure
9 Fast gait
10 1943 penny metal
11 Enjoy avidly
12 Nimble
13 Also-ran
18 Emphatic typeface
19 Virgil's epic saga
23 Lotto in Britain
26 Impudent words
27 Hinged tongue
28 Field of study
30 Needle cases
32 Mardi __
34 Chilean currency
36 More fit
38 Andes autocrat
39 Beat it!
40 At this place
42 Cause to quiver
43 Ready for bed
48 Simple sweepers
50 Actress Strassman
52 Brazilian dance in duple time
53 Earth visitor
54 Actor Merlin
56 Boredom
58 Card-game displays
60 Small vipers
61 Chap
63 Sheep fat
64 Ski lift
65 Christiania, today
67 Commit perjury

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



R	A	T	S	O	■	N	E	R	F	■	P	A	S	S
A	L	I	A	S	■	E	R	I	E	■	A	L	A	I
G	O	L	F	C	O	U	R	S	E	■	D	O	L	L
A	T	L	E	A	S	T	■	E	T	E	R	N	A	L
■	■	■	■	H	H	E	A	■	■	N	E	E	D	Y
B	O	U	E	■	A	R	N	O	L	D	S	■	■	■
A	R	E	N	A	■	■	K	L	E	E	■	P	I	E
B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	D	I	A	M	O	N	D
E	L	K	■	S	H	O	E	■	■	R	A	N	G	E
■	■	■	S	E	A	T	T	L	E	■	D	E	A	N
O	L	S	E	N	■	■	S	U	P	S	■	■	■	■
P	I	N	E	T	A	R	■	R	E	A	C	H	E	S
R	E	E	D	■	H	O	C	K	E	Y	R	I	N	K
A	G	E	E	■	O	B	I	E	■	S	A	V	O	Y
H	E	R	D	■	Y	E	A	R	■	O	B	E	S	E

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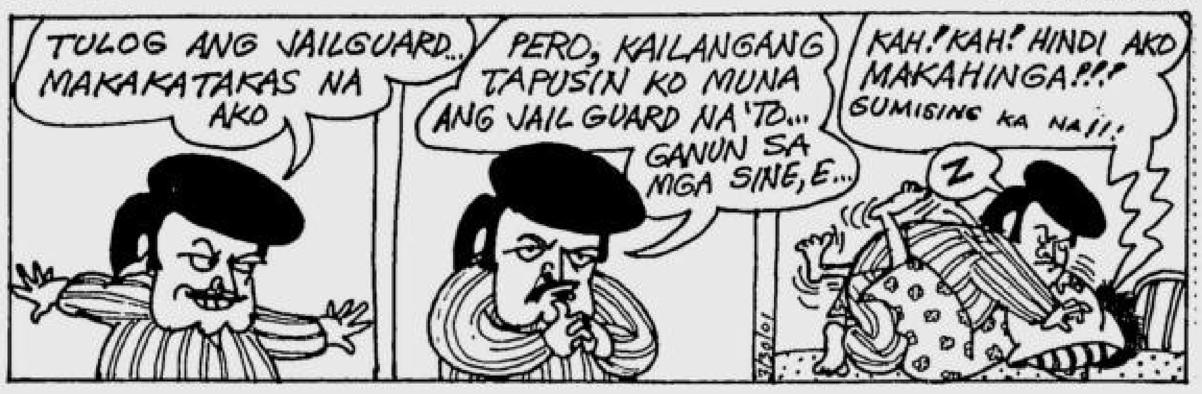
2/14/01

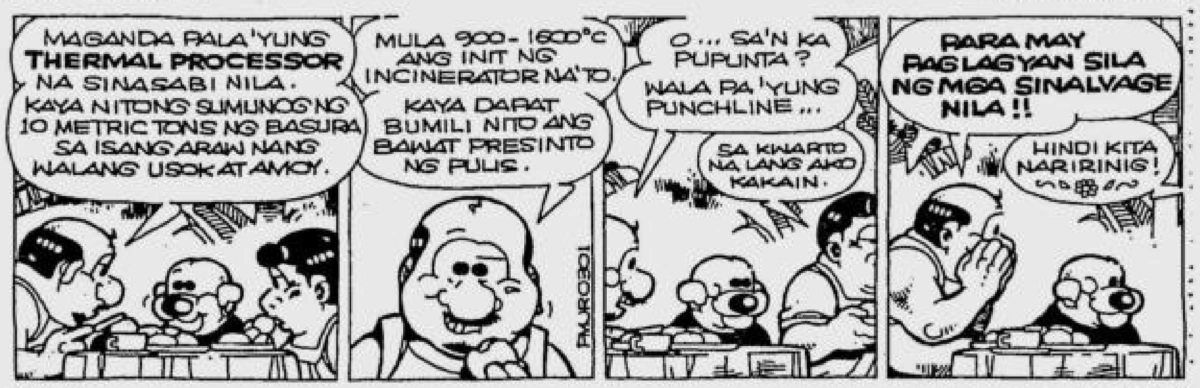
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TULOG ANG JAILGUARD... MAKAKATAKAS NA AKO
PERO, KAILANGANG TAPUSIN KO MUNA ANG JAIL GUARD NA 'TO...
GANUN SA MGA SINE, E...
KAH! KAH! HINDI AKO MAKAHINGA!!!
GUMISING KA NA!!!
Z
3/30/01

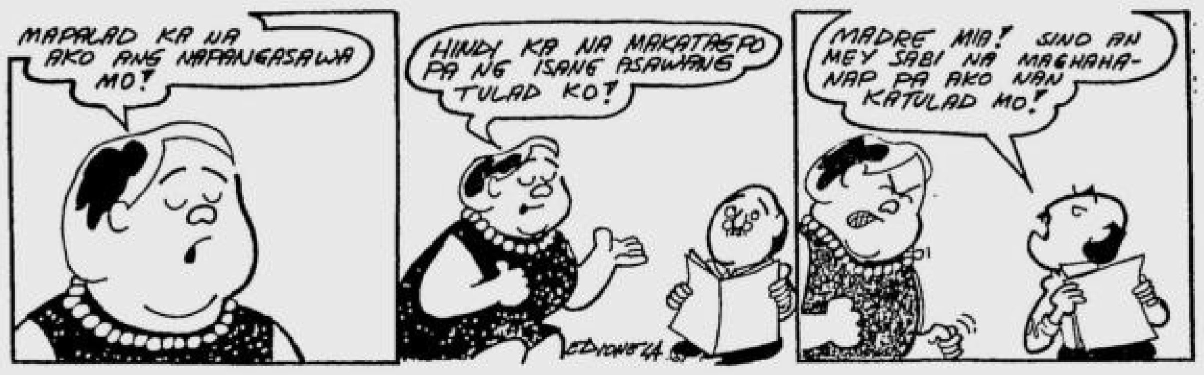
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGANDA PALA 'YUNG THERMAL PROCESSOR NA SINASABI NILA. KAYA NITONG SUMUNOG NG 10 METRIC TONS NG BASURA SA ISANG ARAW NANG WALANG USOK AT AMOY.
MULA 900-1600°C ANG INIT NG INCINERATOR NA 'TO. KAYA DAPAT BUMILI NITO ANG BAWAT PRESINTO NG PULIS.
PMJR0301
O... SA'N KA PUPUNTA? WALA PA 'YUNG PUNCHLINE...
SA KWARTO NA LANG AKO KAKAIN.
PARA MAY PAGLAGYAN SILA NG MGA SINALVAGE NILA!!
HINDI KITA NARIRINIG!

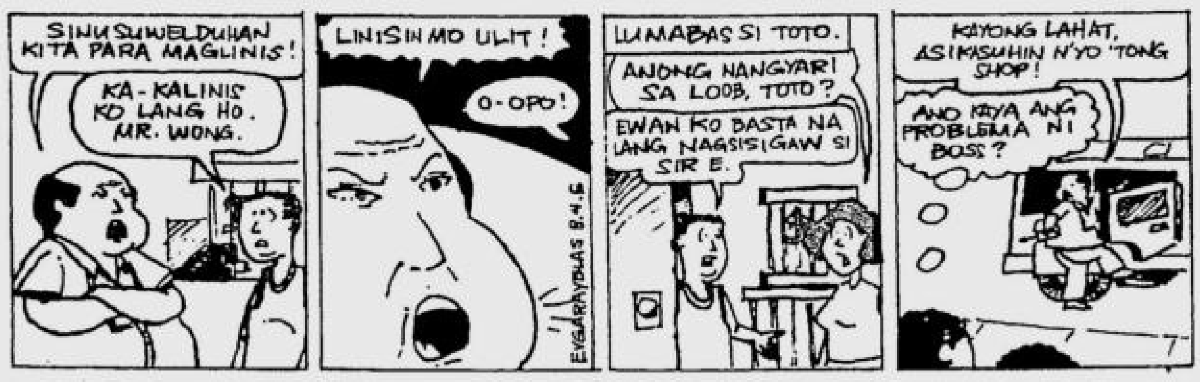
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAPALAD KA NA AKO ANG NAPANGASAWA MO!
HINDI KA NA MAKATAGPO PA NG ISANG ASAWANG TULAD KO!
MADRE MIA! SINO AN MEY SABI NA MAGHAHANAP PA AKO NAN KATULAD MO!
EDIONELA

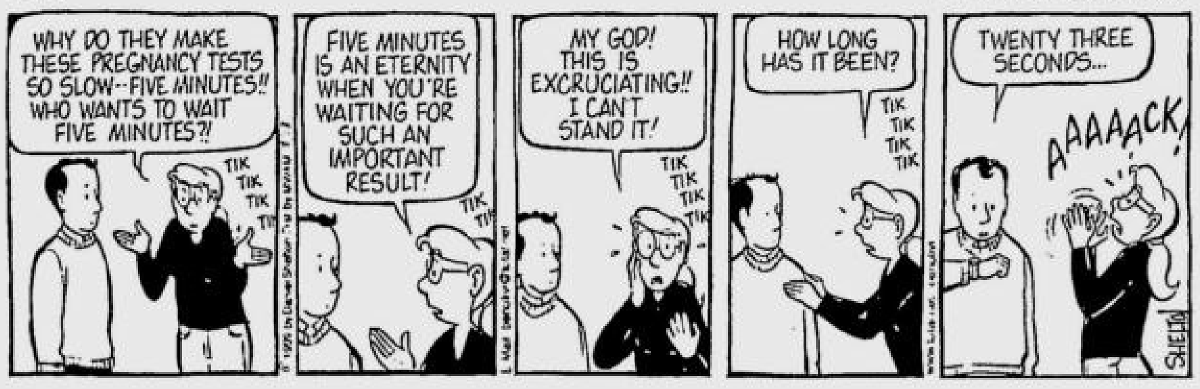
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SINUSUWELDUHAN KITA PARA MAGLINIS!
KA-KALINIS KO LANG HO. MR. WONG.
LINISIN MO ULIT!
O-OPO!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.4.6
LUMABAS SI TOTO.
ANONG NANGYARI SA LOOB, TOTO?
EWAN KO BASTA NA LANG NAGSISIGAW SI SIR E.
KAYONG LAHAT, ASIKASUHIN N'YO 'TONG SHOP!
ANO KAYA ANG PROBLEMA NI BOSS?

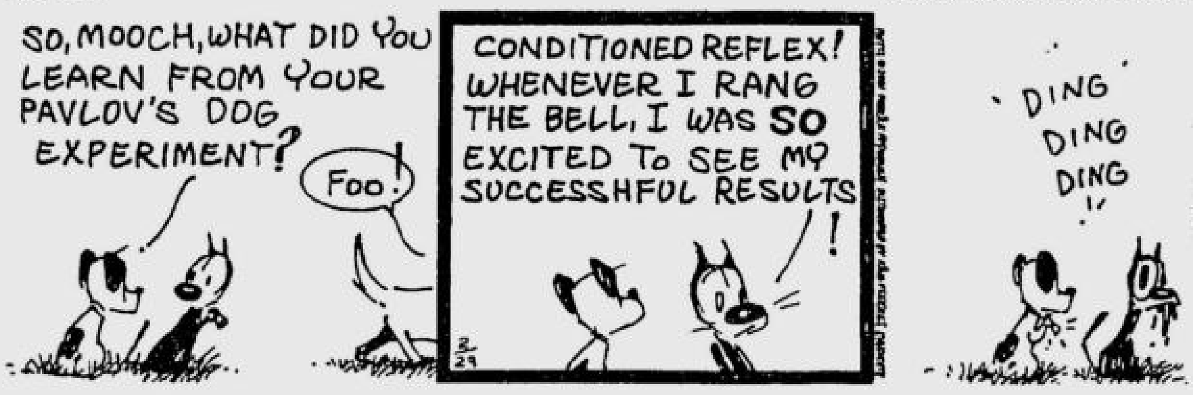
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHY DO THEY MAKE THESE PREGNANCY TESTS SO SLOW--FIVE MINUTES!! WHO WANTS TO WAIT FIVE MINUTES?!
TIK TIK TIK TIK
FIVE MINUTES IS AN ETERNITY WHEN YOU'RE WAITING FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT RESULT!
TIK TIK
MY GOD! THIS IS EXCRUCIATING!! I CAN'T STAND IT!
TIK TIK TIK TIK
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
TIK TIK TIK TIK
TWENTY THREE SECONDS...
AAAAACK!
SHELTON

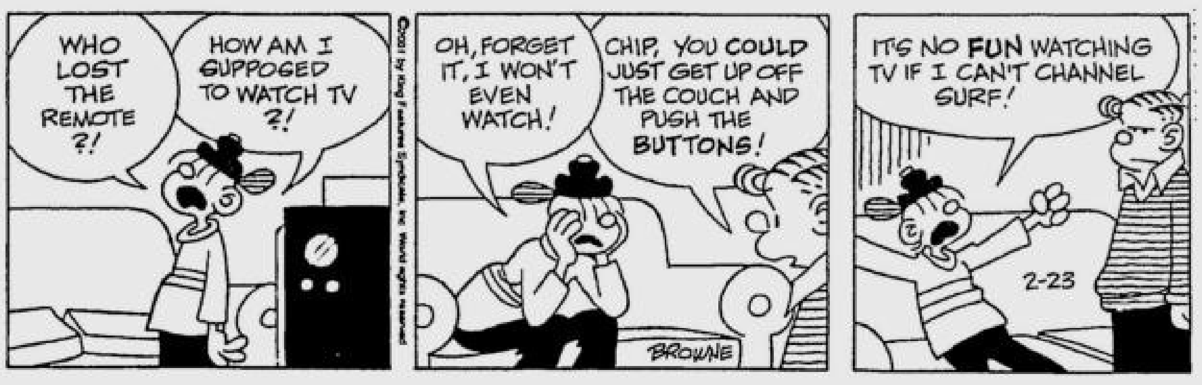
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SO, MOOCH, WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR PAVLOV'S DOG EXPERIMENT?
FOO!
CONDITIONED REFLEX! WHENEVER I RANG THE BELL, I WAS SO EXCITED TO SEE MY SUCCESSHFUL RESULTS!
2/29
DING DING DING

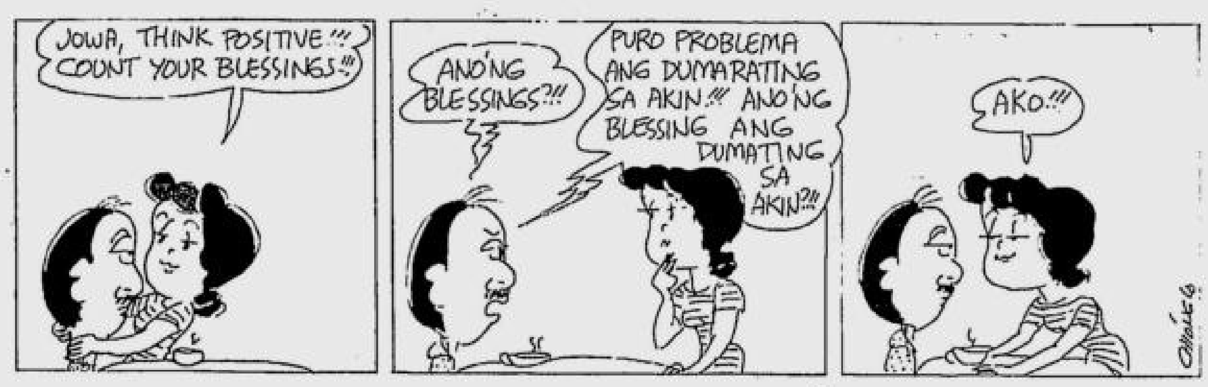
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHO LOST THE REMOTE?!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO WATCH TV?!
OH, FORGET IT, I WON'T EVEN WATCH!
CHIP, YOU COULD JUST GET UP OFF THE COUCH AND PUSH THE BUTTONS!
BROWNE
IT'S NO FUN WATCHING TV IF I CAN'T CHANNEL SURF!
2-23

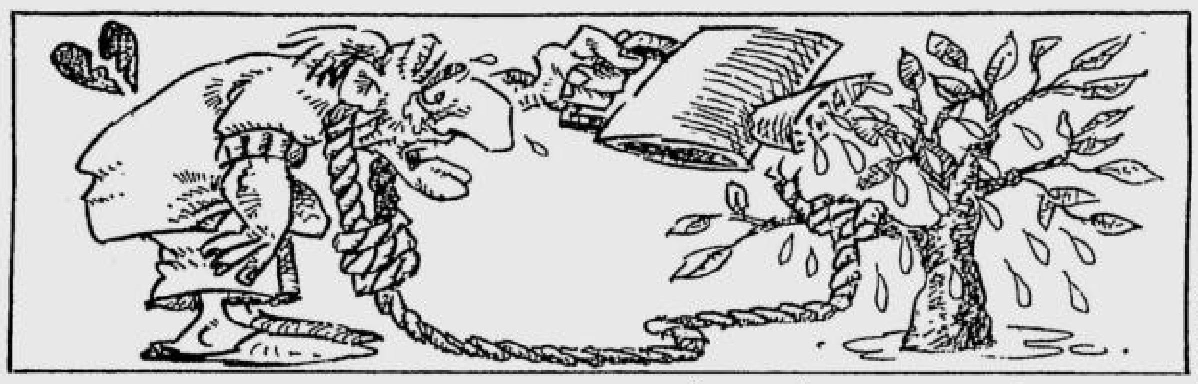
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, THINK POSITIVE!!! COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!!!
ANO'NG BLESSINGS?!!!
PURO PROBLEMA ANG DUMARATING SA AKIN!!! ANO'NG BLESSING ANG DUMATING SA AKIN?!!
AKO!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



PASSION FOR FLOWERS

Lerma Pancho's love affair with flowers started as a hobby. It was while working at shopping malls in the US and Dubai that she got into flower arrangement. At times, she'd accompany her employer to Spain to manage a flower shop. Through observation and hard work, she has mastered the art of flower arrangement. A full-time broker for Crown Asia Properties, the 51-year-old Pancho continues to conduct lectures on floral arrangement. Call 566-5590/5591.

Why there is opposition to GE foods and golden rice

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

IS golden rice the answer to Vitamin A deficiency? Biotech companies and those engaged in genetic engineering (GE) say yes. Greenpeace, the international environmental watchdog, other environmentalists, NGOs, nutritionists and even the Rockefeller Foundation, a major sponsor of the rice research project, say no.

Last January, the International Rice Research Institute (Irri) based in Los Baños, Laguna, reported it had received the first research samples of the so-called golden rice.

According to the report, these samples will allow Irri to finally start the required testing processes using local rice varieties, and to investigate the safety and utility of the new rice variety in combating Vitamin A deficiency. This deficiency is said "to be responsible for 500,000 cases of irreversible blindness and 1-2 million deaths worldwide each year." Proponents of golden rice say it contains Vitamin A-rich beta carotene and other carotenoids.

Golden rice was invented by European scientists through donations of intellectual property licenses from leading biotech companies like Syngenta, Monsanto and others.

Greenpeace doubts the accuracy of Syngenta's claim that "a single month of marketing delay of golden rice could cause 50,000 children to go blind." Greenpeace calculates that "an adult would have to eat at least 3.7 kg of dry weight rice (around 9 kg of cooked rice) to satisfy his/her daily need of Vitamin A from golden rice."

Alternative markets

In other words, adds Von Hernandez, Greenpeace campaign director for Southeast Asia, "a normal daily intake of 300 g of rice would, at best, provide 8 percent of the Vitamin A needed daily. A breast-feeding woman would have to eat at least 6.3 kg in dry weight, which converts to nearly 18 kg of cooked rice per day."

To Greenpeace, such claims from the GE industry are ridiculous as no one would or could eat that much rice daily. Furthermore, there is still no proof that the new rice can really provide any significant vitamin benefits.

Recently, Greenpeace activists in Manila conducted a small demonstration to make their point. They served a volunteer the cooked equivalent of 3.7 kg of the GE rice, and beside the big platter of rice, they placed a small plate of vegetables that contained the same quantity of beta carotene.

Rockefeller Foundation, a major sponsor of the Vitamin A rice research project, admitted "that the [GE] industry's advertisement and the media in general seem to forget that it is a research product that needs further development before it [is made] available to farmers and consumers."

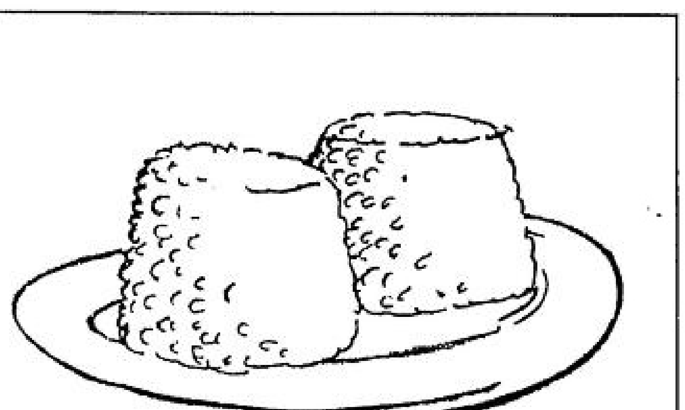
In the face of rejection by European markets and consumers worldwide, Hernandez reports that "the [GE] industry is desperate for alternative markets" and so is trying to make inroads in developing countries like the Philippines. "Golden rice has been presented as a quick fix for a global problem. It isn't, and the cash-driven propaganda is drowning out the other genuine attempts to enforce existing solutions." Hernandez cites the underlying causes of Vitamin A deficiency here as poverty and lack of access to a more diverse diet.

Threat is real

An NGO, the Ecological Society of the Philippines (ESP) voiced its own protest against genetically modified organisms (Gino) in general. Antonio M. Claparols, president of ESP (as well as regional councilor of IUCN, the biggest international conservation organization), reported that ESP's rejection of genetically modified foods led it to file a case in the Supreme Court to stop field tests of BT corn in the country. The case, said Claparols, was dismissed on a technicality, but as the threat is "as real as cancer," his organization continues its vigilance.

"We must be very careful," he warns, "and take a national stand against GMOs. India, Bangladesh and the entire European Union have. Why can't we? We are a country rich in natural resources and organic food... Let us not allow ourselves to be used as a dumping ground for GMOs or as testing ground to breed them. The biggest case against GE foods is that 'the products of the technology are living organisms that could never have evolved naturally... and capable of reproducing, mutating and moving within the environment... Because they are alive, they are inherently unstable and the consequences of releasing them into the environment cannot be predicted.... Once harmful effects become apparent, it will already be too late (and perhaps) irreversible.' "

One of President Macapagal-Arroyo's first pronouncements in office had to do with the GE problem. In view of the widespread objection to GMO crops, she said, experimentation on them will not be allowed during her administration.



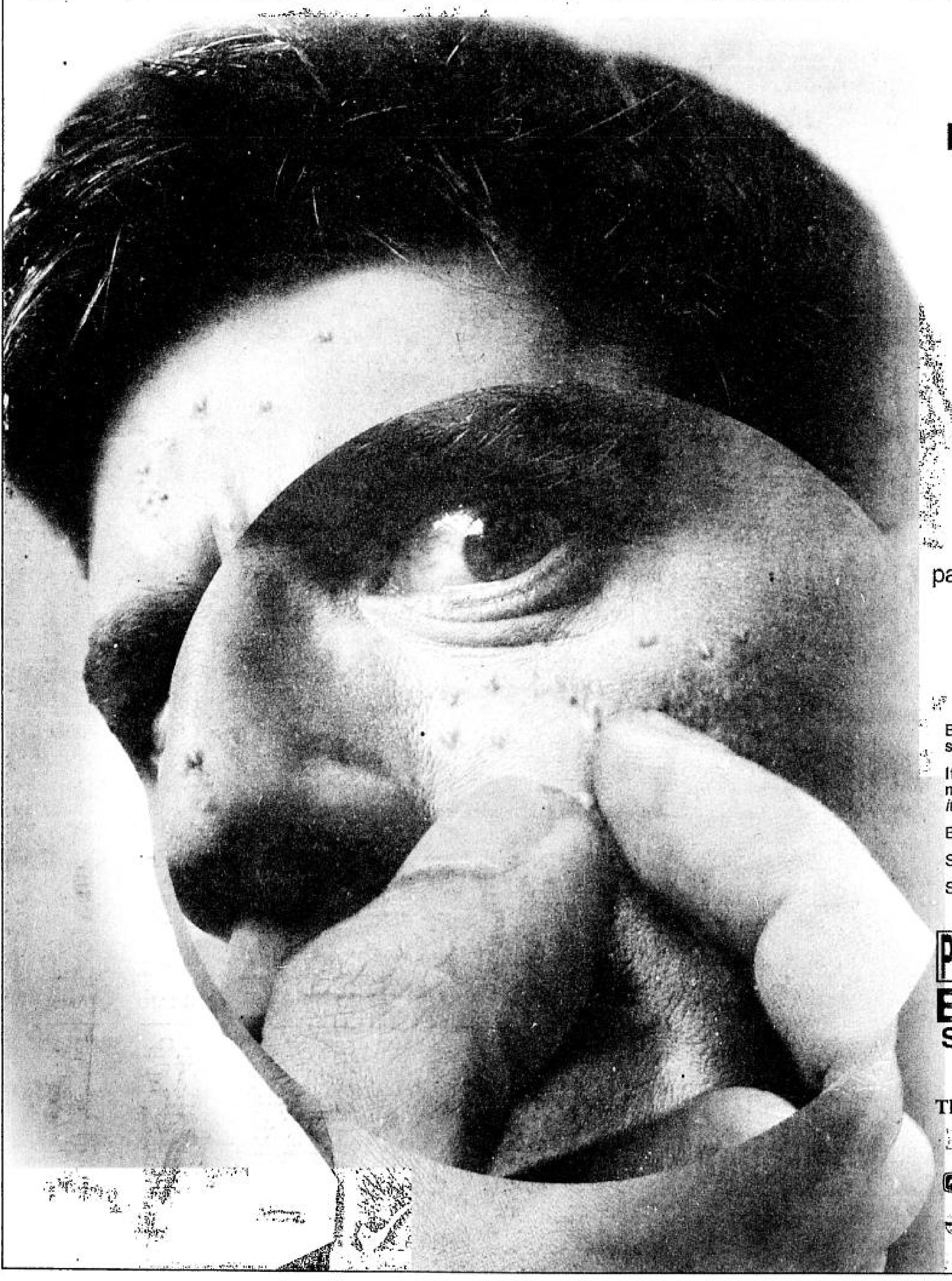
"Ixtra rice uli siiirr?

HOLY WEEK READY

"Oo naman, pleeeasse!" Sa Ilonggo Grill, kailangan mo talaga ng ixtra rice! Para namnamin ang ixtra sarap ng sabaw at sarsa at init at amoy at sahog at lahat-lahat ayyy.... nakuuu poo! Talagang you will enjoy our inihaw na hito, spicy pusit, seafood inasal, panga, malasugi, crablets, inihaw na pusit, at rellenong bangus. Kaya tikman ninyo lahat, araw-arawin dapat. Kaon na sa Ilonggo Grill!

Outlets: Ayala Town Center • CSI The City Mall (Dagupan) • Festival Supermall (Alabang) • Glorietta Quad • Harrison Plaza • Landmark • Megacenter (Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija) • Robinson's Galleria • Shangri La -- Foodcourt Shangri La -- 5th Level • SM Arroceros Manila • SM Bacoor • SM Centerpoint • SM Cubao • SM Fairview • SM Makati • SM Megamall • SM San Fernando (Pampanga) • SM Southmall • SM Sucat • Taft Avenue (Across PGH) Waltermart Calamba • Waltermart Carmona

Araw-Araw
ILONGGO GRILL



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Betadine Skin Cleanser is clinically proven to effectively fight persistent and stubborn acne such as pimples, whiteheads and blackheads.

Its strong antiseptic action eliminates acne-causing bacteria and microorganisms, as well as reduces excessive oils in the skin while *maintaining its natural pH level.*

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POVIDONE-IODINE
BETADINE
7.5%
Skin
Cleanser
ANTISEPTIC

How To Use:
1. Pour a small amount on palm and dilute with a palmful of water.
2. Work into lather on face (or area affected with acne) for 15 seconds just like liquid soap.
3. Rinse thoroughly with water.
4. Use two to three times a day until acne has completely healed (preferably in the morning and before going to bed).

For Inquiries, please call
Pascual Clear Skin Hotline
926-9451 or 920-1911 to 15 loc. 217

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₱2.10

Pharex Paracetamol
500 mg. tablet
₱1.00

SAVE 52%

Hindi na kailangang mahal ang gamot na mabisa. That's why for headache and fever, there's Pharex Paracetamol.

Pharex medicines are definitely as safe and effective as other brands because these are certified by the Department of Health. What's more, Pharex Medicines are also trusted and prescribed by doctors. And these are more affordable as well, giving you more value for your money.

Mag-PHAREX ka na!

SAVINGS BASED ON RETAIL PRICE OF BRAND B

Tandaan, 'pag may karamdaman, mag-Pharex ka na.

Para sa lagnat - PHAREX Paracetamol • Para sa sakit ng ulo - PHAREX Paracetamol/ PHAREX Mefenamic Acid • Para sa ubo-PHAREX Carbocisteine • Para sa makapit na plema - PHAREX Bromhexine • Para sa ubong sanhi ng allergy-PHAREX Diphenhydramine • Para sa ubong sanhi ng makating lalamunan - PHAREX Guaifenesin • Para sa impeksiyon-PHAREX Antibiotics • Pampasigla ng katawan - PHAREX Vitamin B1+B6+B12

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Buying an antique of tomorrow

THE CLASSIC Georgian style, the artistic movement that held sway during the successive reigns of the four King Georges of England, spanning the years from 1714-1830, also known as the Age of Elegance. That extraordinary period produced great cabinet and furniture designers and makers, most famously Thomas Chippendale, George Hepplewhite, Robert Adam and Thomas Sheraton.

You can find Georgian-style furniture only at Georgian Lane, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati and the Alabang Town Center Expansion Mall.

Georgian-style furniture-making has been around in the Philippines since 1973 when an Australian couple set up Lincoln Gerard in Manila. Their son, Dominic Griffith, who has remained in the Philippines, has continued this tradition, strictly adhering to the standards set by the great cabinet makers of the 18th century, and proudly using Filipino craftsmen.

He scours the world for his materials—upholstery fabric from Thailand, dye-through leather from Australia, glue from Sweden, glazes and waxes from Denmark, brass studs from New York, plantation pine from New Zealand, mahogany from Central Java. Tthe assembly, most of the carving and the painstaking finish he entrusts only to his Filipino craftsmen. "They are the best in the world!" he enthuses.

Their fine handiwork are displayed in Georgian Lane showrooms that feature beds and cabinets, consoles and commodes, dining tables, chests and side tables, chairs and sofas, valets and dressers. And they all come with a certificate of lifetime guarantee.